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HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED

Kadie Rolfzen



Jaycie Johnson



FALL PHENOMS

Rolfzen, Johnson look to lead Husker volleyball, soccer



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From the Editor

BY DARREN IVY
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VOLLEYBALL, SOCCER HAVE BUILT OWN BIG RED TRADITIONS COOK, WALKER ARE WINNINGEST HUSKER COACHES ALL-TIME IN RESPECTIVE SPORTS

FOOTBALL IS STILL KING AT NEBRASKA, BUT WE WANTED TO SPOTLIGHT A COUPLE OF THE OTHER PROGRAMS IN THE FIRST FALL EDITION OF HUCKERS ILLUSTRATED THAT HAVE TRADITIONS OF THEIR OWN AND THAT ARE STARTING NEW CHAPTERS WITH STATE OF THE ART FACILITIES.

Volleyball, which is now in year three at the renovated Bob Devaney Center, has arguably been the most successful program at Nebraska over the last 40 years.

Nebraska's program trails only Stanford for all-time wins and highest winning percentage among NCAA Division I programs.

The Huskers enter the 2015 volleyball season as the No. 5 team in the country with five of their six starters back and plenty of other players with experience.

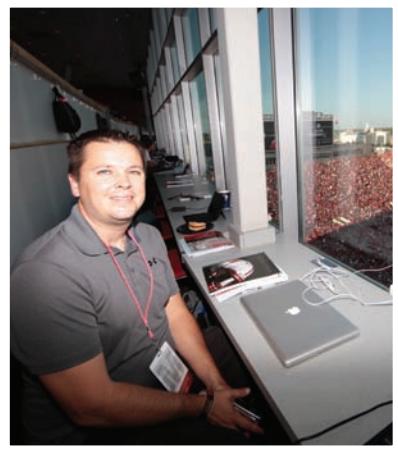
This group will be trying to break NU's drought of making the Final Four and bring home the school's first national championship since 2006. The extra motivation this season is that the Final Four will be held in Omaha.

The Class of 2013 that came in as the No. 1 ranked recruiting class in the country are now juniors with two years of collegiate experience under their belts.

Kadie Rolfzen is a two-time All-American and is featured on page ??

She and her teammates have not liked the feeling after being eliminated in the elite eight the past four years.

Coach John Cook is focused on the mental things that can make the difference in do-or-die matches.



Nearly a foot shorter but equally successful in her own sport of soccer. Junior Jaycie Johnson is set to lead the Huskers into their new digs at Barb Gibbner Stadium.

Johnson broke onto the scene as a freshman scoring 19 goals as the Huskers compiled a 19-4-1 record and made their first NCAA Tournament appearance since 2005. However, NU struggled through a 8-9-2 Season in 2014 as Johnson's scoring also fell off a bit.

Johnson and head coach John Walker, who is beginning his 22nd season in Lincoln, feel the Huskers are ready to return to their winning ways as NU will be playing for the late Peter Underwood, who was killed in a vehicle accident while recruiting earlier this year.

On the football field, first-year coach Mike Riley and his new group of assistants are anxiously awaiting their home opener with BYU on Sept. 5.

Unfortunately, one of NU's expected standouts – DeMornay Pierson-El – has already been stricken with the injury bug as has been the case the last four of five seasons with top players not being able to play full seasons. Five unnamed players also are suspended for the opener.

Could make for an interesting opener and subsequently fall if the Huskers stumble out of the blocks.

I am still going to stick with my pre-season prediction that it will be a successful season on the gridiron and also hope that volleyball, soccer and the rest of NU's programs also experience plenty of success.

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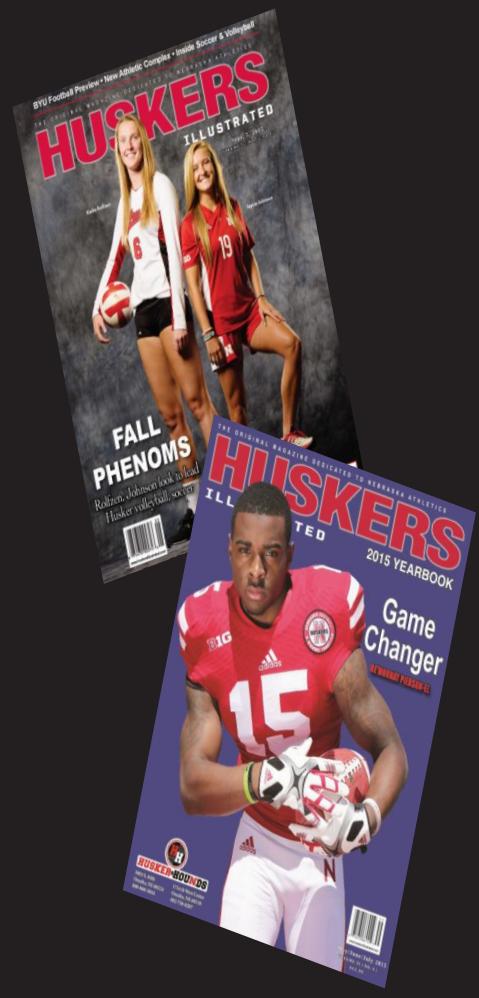
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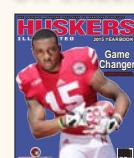
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The next Huskers Illustrated edition, featuring the South Alabama preview and BYU recap will mail Sept. 7.

CONTENTS

SEPTEMBER 5, 2015 • VOLUME 35 • NO. 5

COLUMNS

4

FROM THE EDITOR

BY DARREN IVY

Led by the winningest coaches in each of their program's histories at NU, the women's volleyball and women's soccer teams both have high hopes for their 2015 seasons.

44

INSIDE HUSKER RECRUITING

BY MICHAEL SCHAEFER

Nebraska coaches have already secured 15 verbal commitments for the Class of 2016, and fall season has not even begun yet.

45

STATE OF THE HUSKERS

BY MICHAEL BRUNTZ

Wide receiver Jamal Turner has recommitted himself and looks to take advantage of his fifth-year injury hardship, especially with De'Mornay Pierson El injured.

FEATURE

12,26

COVER STORIES

BY SHANE G. GILSTER

Soccer player Jaycie Johnson and volleyball player Kadie Rolfzen both have high hopes for their respective 2015 seasons.

2015 FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	SITE	TIME	TV/SCORE
SEPT. 5	BYU	MEMORIAL STADIUM	2:30 P.M.	ABC
SEPT. 12	SOUTH ALABAMA	MEMORIAL STADIUM	7 P.M.	BTN
SEPT. 19	@ MIAMI	MIAMI, FLORIDA	2:30 P.M.	ABC/ESPN2
SEPT. 26	SOUTHERN MISS	MEMORIAL STADIUM	11 A.M.	TBA
OCT. 3	@ ILLINOIS	CHAMPAIGN, ILLINOIS	TBA	TBA
OCT. 10	WISCONSIN	MEMORIAL STADIUM	TBA	TBA
OCT. 17	@ MINNESOTA	MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA	TBA	TBA
OCT. 24	NORTHWESTERN	MEMORIAL STADIUM	TBA	TBA
OCT. 31	@ PURDUE	WEST LAFAYETTE, INDIANA	TBA	TBA
NOV. 7	MICHIGAN STATE	MEMORIAL STADIUM	TBA	TBA
NOV. 14	@ RUTGERS	PISCATAWAY, N.J.	TBA	TBA
NOV. 27	IOWA	MEMORIAL STADIUM	TBA	TBA

ALL GAMES ARE CST



ON THE COVER

Juniors Kadie Rolfzen in volleyball and Jaycie Johnson in soccer already have accomplished a lot in the two years they have been in Nebraska. This fall, they are hoping to lead their respective teams to even greater success as the volleyball team opens the season ranked No. 5 and the soccer program is looking to get back to its success of 2013 when it won the Big Ten title.

PHOTO BY JIMMY RASH/HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED



BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS THROUGH PROJECTS

*Sampson Construction continues
its work with Husker Athletics*

Story by Shane G. Gilster • Tennis photo by Jimmy Rash, Exterior photo courtesy of Sampson Construction

Over the years Sampson Construction has developed its close working relationship with the University of Nebraska athletic department. The latest project between the two involved the Nebraska Soccer and Tennis Complex.

"We have been working with the University of Nebraska on projects since as long as I can remember," said Sampson Construction Senior Project Manager Chuck Richter. "For me it started back with the west stadium skybox additions for football. Then there were other projects involving the football stadium. Being involved in these projects has been an enjoyable experience."

Sampson Construction is a perfect match for NU. Headquartered in Lincoln, Nebraska, Sampson's start as a company is one most Nebraskans can relate to – with hard work and dedication.

The official start of Sampson Construction came in 1952 when founder, Morris Sampson built a house for the family in Lincoln, and the family moved to town to focus solely on building homes, one at a time, under the name Sampson Construction. In the generation that followed, the Sampson sons expanded the business to the commercial market. Rod, Sam, and John Sampson began using the expertise they learned from their father and took on larger, more complicated projects. During the late 20th century, the company grew to approximately 200 employees in two offices, with volumes over \$100 million.

Today, the company is led by John Sampson, accompanied by an outstanding management team, including several members of the third generation of the Sampson family. The company currently has five office locations, projects in eight states, annual volumes over \$200 million, and 300+ dedicated construction professionals. They are described as "capable for any project, and personally involved to make sure it's done right." Looking forward, the company intends to continue the Sampson tradition of quality, fairness, and integrity, with added focus on innovation, mentoring, sustainability, and value.

That tradition works great with the sports tradition at the University of Nebraska. So it comes as no surprise that the two work well together and have reached that comfort zone many relationships strive to achieve.

"We have created some really outstanding relationships with the NU athletic department and facilities," Richter said.

"John Ingram, Chynna Hardy, Brad Isham, Brad Muehling and Brian Larson are great to work with. So we have created this team environment where everyone is working together to get to the same goal." Approximately 20% of Sampson's employees are University of Nebraska graduates, so contributing to projects on campus is both appealing and rewarding. In addition to athletic projects, Sampson has completed student housing, administration offices, classrooms, research laboratories and parking garages for the University.

When the Nebraska Tennis and Soccer Complex project came up for public bid, it wasn't a guarantee that Sampson Construction would automatically get it. For Richter, getting the bid was something he anxiously awaited. So when they got it, he was named the senior project manager and Sampson started working in July of 2014 after the fairground campground area was demolished and cleared out.

As usual Sampson Construction put together a great team for this project. In addition to Richter, Justin Schulz, served as the other Project Manager along with Superintendents Jeff Grote and Lowell Lase. Sampson needed all hands on deck as this project was fast track and complex.

"It was kind of like building four projects in one," Richter said. "We had the outdoor tennis courts, indoor tennis courts and support building, soccer field / grandstand area, and then all of the parking and site work that supports those other three. Our two superintendents had to manage the work on those four interconnecting projects."

As anyone can attest to who has driven in that area, 14th and Cornhusker would not be the ideal place to do a major construction project. But that was the situation Sampson Construction and its partners had to

overcome.

"The current site is set up for a future entrance off the 14th & Cornhusker interchange. So it will become much easier to get into that site after that has been completed," Richter said. "And one of the great things about the location for the University is that it is another nice entrance into the northern part of the campus itself. We put a big N on the side of the building that you can see driving on Cornhusker or down 14th Street. So you have this great complex that the University has as a gateway to its campus."

As construction got underway Sampson Construction had the chance to work with some new partners as well as some they have done projects with before.

"All of the contractors that were working on this project, except some of the specialty ones, were those we worked with before," Richter said. "So we knew what each one of us was expecting from the other. The specialty contractors knew what they were doing and did outstanding work, so that made it easy for us."

One group new to the project team was the architect, RDG Planning and Design. This was the first time Sampson worked with RDG on a University project, but Richter said they were great to work with.

"Whenever we had an issue or challenge we would all get together as a team and figure out a solution. The design team of RDG Planning & Design put together some great plans and designs for the project. Every two weeks we had project meetings to discuss the progress and any challenges we were facing," he said.

Deadlines always must be set and met. But for this project there was no room for delay. NU wanted it completed by the time they held their first exhibition soccer match on August 12.

"This project had the challenge of weather especially when we were working on the outdoor tennis courts and the soccer field," Richter said.

"The grass for the soccer field needed to be laid last fall so that it would have a full year of growth. So in order to do that we had challenges getting the perimeter of the field done so the grass could be laid but still be able to start building the grandstand structure."

Sampson Construction met all the deadlines along with conditions and criteria, making the Nebraska Soccer and Tennis Complex one of the best facilities of its kind for those sports in the country.

"For tennis, it gives the University of Nebraska something that they were lacking before – seating for fans to view the matches," Richter said. "The outdoor tennis courts have an elevated boardwalk seating area that runs between two sets of courts, six on each side. On the indoor courts there is an elevated seating area along the six indoor courts."

"On the soccer side the seating area is much closer to the field now which provides a better fan experience. The soccer team now has their own facility instead of sharing it with the track team. To have their locker rooms that you can go out from right onto the field with the video boards and grandstands is great. All the seating has seatbacks on them which makes it more comfortable for fans to watch the games."

The project is just another example of the company's culture of hard work and dedication, something the people of Nebraska are all about.





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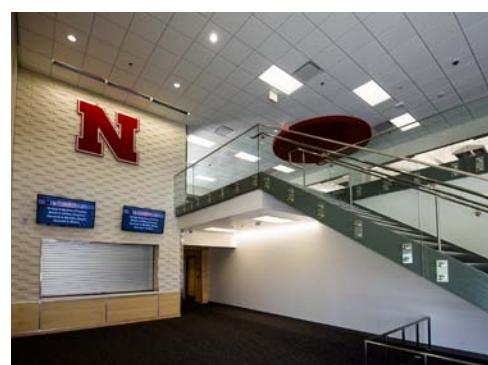


University Suites and Eastside Suites

Nebraska Soccer & Tennis Complex Photo Gallery

Photos by Jimmy Rash

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RDG is celebrating its 50th Anniversary this year. The firm diligently serves collegiate athletic, collegiate recreation, and community wellness patrons and clients, utilizing a complete range of both traditional and non-traditional services, including programming, design, feasibility analysis, need assessment, and master planning. Their collaborative professional services and disciplines of practice include architecture, landscape architecture, planning, interiors, art, graphics, media, lighting design, and engineering.

With offices in Ames and Des Moines, Iowa; Omaha, Nebraska; and Fort Myers, Florida, RDG is focused on the planning and design of sustainable sports, recreation and wellness facilities across the nation. Their facility designs are regularly recognized for project achievement and design excellence.

"We work on projects throughout the United States," RDG project architect and manager Martin L. Miller said. "Currently we have worked on projects in 42 of the 50 states. In our sports focus market, we have had the pleasure and honor of working with small and large schools including the University of Florida, University of Oregon, Wake Forest, University of Michigan, University of Texas and many others."

One new project added to the list of those throughout the country is the Nebraska Soccer and Tennis Complex designed for the University of Nebraska Athletics program. It was a special project for RDG as a large proportion of employees that work in their Omaha office graduated from the University of Nebraska. So it was nice for them to have a chance to work for their alma mater.

It also gave RDG a chance to work with the General Contractor on the project – Sampson Construction. Sampson has worked with NU before on various projects, namely the football stadium expansion. Even though RDG and Sampson never crossed paths before on a project, the relationship worked out well.

As with any type of project, communication is key. And with NU needing the project completed in a very tight timeframe, everyone involved needed to make sure the schedule was met. Miller said the University's new online construction management program was a communication challenge at first, but became second nature as the project went along.

Miller said he appreciated Sampson's goal-oriented approach. He thought the entire team did a good job maintaining the schedule even though there were times significant delays could have happened. But both Sampson and RDG realized that the driving force was NU athletics and that the project needed to be completed for their first soccer game in mid-August. So they focused on the things they needed to do to make it happen.

The biggest design challenge during the initial planning was how to locate the buildings on the site. The site is triangular shaped with significant restrictions on the site grading and where the structures could be built due to Army Corp of Engineers floodplain regulations and existing easements.

"We couldn't just put the buildings anywhere," Miller said. "The soccer field, stadium and tennis courts are the huge 'building blocks' of the project and they needed to be organized in a certain way in relationship to the other spaces. RDG Landscape

Architects, NU Athletics and Facilities staff considered many options and worked collaboratively to maximize the potential of the site."

"The location of the grandstand was a big change from what was originally conceived," Miller said. "Initially it was going to be facing west which is not optimal because you will get the sun in your face late in the day. So we faced it to the east then worked to make all the other pieces fit in order to accommodate that. We then had to move the indoor tennis facility to the north and stretch out the support spaces like the team locker rooms, coaches' offices, etc. along the length of the building."

But that's what RDG is designed to do and the final product they helped build is one of the best soccer and tennis complexes in the country.

"I think the impact of the vistas you get when you come into the complex and see that Nebraska N is fantastic," Miller said. "The coolest place is the patio off of the conference room on the southeast corner. If you do a panoramic from there, you see the outdoor tennis facility, the entry, and across the rest of the complex. You really see all the pieces of what is going on in that complex."

The experience in helping construct the Nebraska Soccer and Tennis Complex has left RDG hopeful to be able to do more projects with NU in the future.

"We loved it," Miller said. "We loved working with John Ingram and the facility folks at NU athletics. Hopefully the folks at Nebraska liked working with us because we want to continue the relationship. Nebraska is a great sports program and school to work for."



Photo by Jimmy Rash

Ready & Able

Junior forward Jaycie Johnson is poised to lead NU in 2015

Story by Shane G. Gilster

It is almost like a perfect storm for Jaycie Johnson and the Nebraska soccer team.

With a brand new stadium and renewed excitement around the program, the Huskers are primed for a breakout season and Johnson looks to regain her scoring form from 2013.

In the offseason, she has worked to improve and got some great experience playing with the U.S. Under-23 Women's National Team in the Four Nations Tournament that also had Norway, Sweden and England.

"I was in Florida for training camp at

the end of April for about a week before we went to Norway. It was my first-ever time with a U.S.A. team," Johnson said. "I got to play in the second game for about 35 minutes, and then in the championship game I got to start and play 75 minutes. It is fun to get to play with the different girls around the country. I want to continue to play soccer as long as I can so it was neat to experience this and it will help me and my game."

Johnson also worked hard individually during the offseason.

"I have done a lot of individual work from shooting, improving my speed, to meeting with my head coach to see what

I need to do," she said. "There is a soccer ball that has a chip in it that can tell my ball speed, and where I strike it. That has helped me a lot so I know where I need to strike the ball in the right spot. I can see a big improvement now because of that."

Nebraska head soccer coach John Walker sees that improvement and says his junior forward has all the tools to succeed.

"She is a talented player with blazing speed, a good one-versus-one player, brave, and wants to score," Walker said. "She is just a natural player and can impact her teammates around her."

So expect Johnson to rebound in 2015

after suffering from a bit of a sophomore slump last season. She still led the team with 11 goals but it wasn't as good as 2013 where she scored 17, making it the 10th-best output in school history.

As a true freshman that year, Johnson scored seven game-winning goals, and was named to the All-Big Ten Second Team and All-Big Ten Freshman Team. In the 2013 NCAA Tournament First Round match against Southeastern Louisiana she became only the fifth player in NCAA Tournament history and only freshman to score four goals.

Johnson would like to get more chances in 2015 to increase her goal total and that includes the fan favorite penalty kick where it's her and the goalie.

"The key to making a penalty shot is to just be very calm," Johnson said. "You can't over think it and psych yourself out. You have to have the mentality that you are going to put the ball in the back of the net every time. When you start doubting yourself you won't do well."

"I do not look at the goal keeper at all; I just stay focused on the ball and know where I'm going to kick it. I always take one glance up and usually go to the same side of the goal every time. I would like to try kicking it right down the middle but always get too nervous because the one time I try that the goal keeper probably won't move."

If she is able to score again this season like she did her freshman year, it would be because of her off season work, improved teammate play, and the added incentive for her and the team to play well in their new stadium.

"It will be such a different atmosphere and more fun for the players," Johnson said of the new stadium. "We want to start our new traditions and build the Nebraska soccer program back to where it is one of the top ones again."

Johnson should be playing in front of a lot more fans during home games due to the fact that it is not only a new stadium but there will be night games, something the previous field did not have lights for.

Also helping is the fact that women's soccer is very popular with the U.S.A women's national team winning the World Cup this summer.

"It generates a lot of support and it was great to see that being a women's soccer player myself," said Johnson of the United States winning the World Cup. "So many little girls can grow up wanting to be one of those famous women's players. It is getting a lot bigger in the United States; a lot more leagues are springing up so there are more opportunities for girls to play the sport. When I was little I was limited to what I could do playing soccer."

Even though she didn't have the availability to soccer that girls do now, it doesn't matter if that person was always a natural born soccer player like Johnson.

"Sports have been in my life since I was three years old," Johnson said. "I have four older brothers who all played sports and I went to all their games. I always wanted to play soccer, my mom said ever since I was able to walk, I had a ball at my feet."

Johnson was so unique as a soccer player that she started going to college soccer camps when she was just 10 years old. One of those camps included Nebraska and its head coach John Walker. Being in Lincoln and getting pointers from Walker planted the seed for her to eventually become a Cornhusker.

As a senior at Lee's Summit West High School, Johnson was recruited nationally. She was named the 2013 Gatorade Missouri Girls Soccer Player of

the Year, and was the No. 148 player in the country by IMG Academy and a four-star recruit by TopDrawerSoccer.com.

Being from Missouri, she had no interest in scholarship offers from the area schools like Kansas and Missouri, or even from programs like Florida and USC. Johnson just wanted to be a Husker and another huge plus was it wasn't that far from home so her parents could come up and watch her play.

"When people ask me where I go to school, and I say Nebraska, they say that we have great facilities and tradition, and that we are a powerhouse team in the Big Ten because we won two conference championships my freshman year," she said.

Now a junior, Johnson is set for her final two years as a Husker and has the ability to be one of the all-time best players in NU soccer history.

"At this stage in her career, she is definitely up there with some of the best forwards we have had here. But it depends on how she plays in these next two years."

John Walker
Nebraska head soccer coach

"At this stage in her career, she is definitely up there with some of the best forwards we have had here. But it depends on how she plays in these next two years," Walker said.

If she does well and becomes one of the all-time best, a chance to play professional soccer could be on the horizon. Johnson said if that happens she would definitely do it, but if that doesn't work out then a career in the sports community would do just fine.

"My major is advertising and public relations," she said. "Next year I have an internship with Sporting Kansas City so I want to stay within the sports community."

Having a love for sports and striving to be the best she can be in her craft will make Johnson successful in whatever she does. There is no doubt that has helped her already become one of the best players in the country.



Courtesy of NU Media Relations

2015 Nebraska Soccer Schedule

DATE	OPPONENT	LOCATION	TIME
Aug. 21	Kansas	Barbara Hibner Stadium	7:05 p.m.
Aug. 28	Central Michigan	Barbara Hibner Stadium	7:05 p.m.
Aug. 31	Brigham Young	Barbara Hibner Stadium	7:05 p.m.
Sept. 4	Dayton	at Dayton, Ohio	3:30 p.m.
Sept. 6	DePaul	at Chicago, Ill.	11:00 a.m.
Sept. 11	North Carolina	Barbara Hibner Stadium	7:05 p.m.
Sept. 13	Missouri	at Columbia, Mo.	1:05 p.m.
Sept. 18	Michigan *	at Ann Arbor, Mich.	6:00 p.m.
Sept. 20	Michigan State *	at East Lansing, Mich.	12:00 p.m.
Sept. 25	Penn State *	Barbara Hibner Stadium	7:05 p.m.
Sept. 27	Ohio State *	Barbara Hibner Stadium	1:05 p.m.
Oct. 2	Purdue *	at West Lafayette, Ind.	6:00 p.m.
Oct. 8	Minnesota *	Barbara Hibner Stadium	7:05 p.m.
Oct. 11	Wisconsin *	Barbara Hibner Stadium	1:05 p.m.
Oct. 15	Northwestern *	at Evanston, Ill.	7:00 p.m.
Oct. 18	Illinois *	at Champaign, Ill.	2:00 p.m.
Oct. 23	Iowa *	at Iowa City, Iowa	7:00 p.m.
Oct. 28	Maryland *	Barbara Hibner Stadium	7:05 p.m.

* Conference Games



Q&A – Head Soccer Coach John Walker

22nd Season at Nebraska



Courtesy of NU Media Relations

Q: Why did Nebraska soccer need new facilities?

A: We started talking about getting new soccer facilities in the summer of 2013. We were just missing a lot of pieces in our previous setup. The seating was not ideal and we couldn't play night games. Both of those cut into your fan attendance. We had to share the field with the track team for practices; it is a great practice field but we needed something different for games. When Shawn Eichorst came in as athletic director, he asked us what we needed to be more successful. For soccer, a new field and stadium was the number one thing.

Q: How will this soccer stadium compare to those around the country?

A: It is one of the better ones around. The fan seating is great and it has some uniqueness to it. We wanted to avoid having it look cookie cutter. I had an input on the planning stages and shared photos of other stadiums and features we liked from each. Fans will like coming here to watch games.

Q: You started coaching at NU in 1994. Did you ever think you would still be here some 20 years later?

A: Coaching has become more of a transient profession, people tend to be around for about five years and then move on. So I think if you would have asked me back then if I would still be coaching here 22 years later, I don't think I would have thought so. But I am glad I am, because it is a good place and a good community where we raised our five kids.

Q: Do you see yourself continuing to coach in the foreseeable future?

A: I am 51 years old but I feel I have a lot more years left and am the healthiest I have been in 10 years. Still have a passion for the game and as a coach.

Q: Record-wise the last two years (2013 & 2014) were completely different. In 2013 the team went 19-4-1 and then 8-9-2 last season. What were some of the reasons this happened?

A: In 2013 we had a very good team ... team being the key component, with excellent leadership. Last year we had a pretty good team but we were very inexperienced with 12 freshmen, which is basically half of our roster. We were in every game we played but were not as strong in the penalty areas which really hurt us.

Q: You took the team to Canada this summer to play and then watch the World Cup. How did that help the team?

A: It was an excellent trip for a number of reasons. First, we had just lost assistant coach Peter Underwood who died in a car accident so it was good for the team to be together and deal with that. Second, we were able to watch five World Cup games including one with Mexico. Ari Romero who plays for Mexico was a former player of ours. It was good for our players to see that level of soccer, which is the highest. And third, we got to play seven games and train up there. So we ended up getting three and a half weeks of work when you add in practices before.

Q: Will you see more interest in Nebraska soccer since the U.S. National Team won the World Cup this year?

A: You will see a bump in attendance and interest this year. Not only because of the U.S.A winning the World Cup but also because of our facilities and that we have night games. But I have seen the carry over in interest in previous World Cup years. So that definitely helps.

Q: What is your philosophy on recruiting?

A: We are one of the few programs that try to shy away from early recruiting. We tried it for a couple of years because that was what most programs were doing and we didn't want to lose out on getting some of the best players. But student-athletes who are in 9th and 10 grades are just not ready yet. We wanted to become more patient and wait for

WALKER continued on pg. 16

2015 Nebraska Soccer Roster

No.	Name	Position	Ht.	Yr.	Hometown (Previous School)
00	Helena Ferraz	Goalie	5-9	So.	Campinas, Brazil (American School of Campinas)
0	Erika Johnson	Goalie	5-10	So.	North Oaks, Minn. (Mounds View)
1	Kelly Schatz	Goalie	5-10	Jr.	Naperville, Ill. (Central)
2	Emily O'Neal	D	5-7	Fr.	Dallas, Texas (Highland Park)
4	Amanda McClanahan	F/D	5-3	So.	Papillion, Neb. (Tennessee/Papillion-La Vista South)
5	Katie Kraeutner	F/MF	5-4	Sr.	North Saanich, B.C. (Parkland Secondary)
6	Leslie Rowell	Goalie	6-0	Fr.	Lake Forest, Ill. (Shattuck-St. Mary's)
7	Savanah Uveges	F/MF	5-10	RFr.	Bartlett, Ill. (South Elgin)
8	Haley Hanson	MF	5-6	So.	Overland Park, Kan. (Olathe East)
9	Sydney Miramontez	MF	5-7	Jr.	Lenexa, Kan. (Shawnee Mission West)
10	Courtney Claassen	F/MF	5-5	Jr.	Parkville, Mo. (Park Hill South)
11	Lindsay Hargreaves	D	6-0	Fr.	Victoria, B.C. (Belmont Senior Secondary)
12	Kristi King	D	5-7	Fr.	Burlington, Ontario (Corpus Christi)
13	Jaylyn Oldermann	D	5-8	Sr.	Gretna, Neb. (Millard North)
14	Michaela Loebel	F/MF	5-9	So.	Geneva, Ill. (Geneva)
15	Amanda Hilton	F/MF	5-5	So.	West Chicago, Ill. (St. Charles East)
16	Emilee Cincotta	F/MF	5-8	RFr.	Tigard, Ore. (Tigard)
17	Caroline Buelt	MF/D	5-8	Fr.	Polk City, Iowa (Ankeny)
18	Nikki Turney	D	6-0	So.	Surrey, B.C. (Fraser Heights Secondary)
19	Jaycie Johnson	F	5-6	Jr.	Lake Winnebago, Mo. (Lee's Summit West)
20	Sami Reinhard	MF	5-8	So.	Long Beach, Calif. (Woodrow Wilson Classical)
21	Caroline Flynn	F/MF	5-5	Jr.	Lincoln, Neb. (Southwest)
22	Alli Peterson	MF/D	5-9	So.	Iowa City, Iowa (West)
23	Lauren Smith	Goalie	5-6	Fr.	Glenview, Ill. (Loyola Academy)
27	Lia Baldo	F	5-9	RFr.	Glenview, Ill. (Loyola Academy)
30	Brooks Brennan	D	5-9	So.	Albuquerque, N.M. (Albuquerque Academy)

WALKER continued from pg. 15

the players to develop. If a player commits early in high school and things change for them in a two to three year period, your program and that player set themselves up for a struggle.

Q: Do you still actively recruit Canada like you have in the past?

A: We currently have four Canadian players on the team and actively recruit there. But in the past, over a ten-year period, I was heavily involved in the national team's program and got to work with a variety of age groups, so obviously it was an advantage in identifying players and recruiting them here. But I have not done that since 2008.

Q: What about recruiting over in Europe?

A: It is difficult recruiting there ... we've tried ... but haven't brought in someone from there yet. We still actively recruit it though. The same thing with recruiting Mexico and the rest of Latin America.

Q: Do you have certain regions you recruit in the United States?

A: No, we recruit nationally, and if you look at our roster you will see players from all over. As we moved into the Big Ten Conference we started to recruit and bring players in from the Chicago area, Iowa and Minnesota.

Q: How is the level of soccer in Nebraska?

A: It has gotten a lot better over the years. The two big areas like Lincoln and Omaha have some good players.

Q: What makes a good soccer player?

A: It is not a sport where you can just have a couple of exceptional athletic qualities. It is not enough to just be fast or strong. You have to have technique also ... like being able to strike or cross a ball. That only gets developed with time. Then there is a mental aspect and understand-

ing of the game. We have a dilemma in North America in that there are a lot of kids who play and are good at soccer but don't watch or practice it a lot. By watching soccer that is played at the highest level, you can pick up so many things. Also the rest of the world has players doing pick-up games, which develops creativity and interactions with different ages and abilities. Here all their development comes from a weekly practice and then the game.

Q: What advice would you give parents who have young kids that are playing soccer?

A: I would say to help them with their technical development - hitting, receiving and turning the ball properly. Also to have them play unstructured games with other kids, so they can problem solve on their own and develop that trial and error. Get them to watch soccer as much as possible. Make sure they are enjoying themselves and develop a passion for it.

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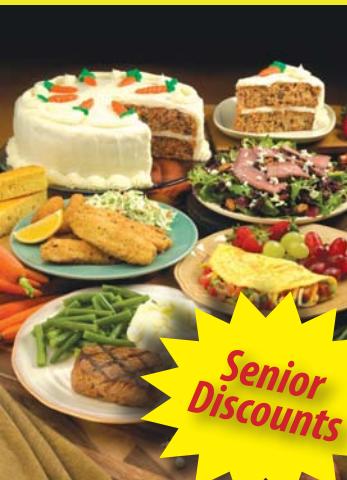
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Katie Kraeutner

Number: 5
Position: Midfielder/Forward
Height: 5'4"
Year: Senior
Hometown: North Saanich, B.C.
High School: Parkland Secondary

Kraeutner is one of two seniors on the NU soccer team. Even though she will get to play only one year at the new stadium and experience the new facilities, she said she will take it and make the most of it.

"I imagined someday playing in a new stadium but now that it has happened, it has blown away all my expectations. I just get goose bumps just walking around the new facilities," she said. This is the best stadium I have ever played at or seen, and I have been to a lot of them."

Kraeutner added that the stadium is more compact than the last one so having fans close will play a big factor and help the home game atmosphere. The NU media has also done a great job bringing in fans, but to keep them coming will depend on the way Kraeutner and her teammates perform, and if they can do well they will continue to see more in attendance throughout the season.

"We have high expectations and standards of ourselves," she said.

Caroline Flynn

Number: 21
Position: Midfielder/Forward
Height: 5'5"
Year: Junior
Hometown: Lincoln, Neb.
High School: Southwest
Club: Toro

Flynn is the only player from Lincoln, Nebraska on the roster. So playing in a new stadium in front of her hometown fans is even more special.

"Playing night games will really help the atmosphere at home games," Flynn said. "We will get a lot more families and kids. I am hoping for more of a fan environment where we can feed off each other's energy. The Penn State fans are very interactive with their team so hopefully we can have that here."

"Michigan and Penn State have nice stadiums but ours will be the best in the Big Ten by far. I never thought we were going to have a stadium like this."

Flynn remembers being a ball girl for the NU soccer team when they played at Abbott. She never dreamed they would



build a new one like they have now.

"We have a bunch of different traditions that we are starting this year, so it will be like having a fresh start for us," Flynn said on what the new soccer facilities have influenced. "I know there are going to be a lot more people coming to check out some of our games so I think we will just feed off of the fans ... the more the better!"

Alli Peterson

Number: 22
Position: Midfielder/Defender
Height: 5'9"
Year: Sophomore
Hometown: Iowa City, Iowa
High School: West
Club: Sereno

After Peterson visited Lincoln on her recruiting trip, she came away saying nothing compares to Nebraska in terms of facilities and support.

"That was a big deciding factor when I chose Nebraska over Iowa," Peterson said.

But that was before the new facilities were announced. Now NU soccer has an even bigger advantage in recruiting and hopefully in wins and losses.

"Our stadium is one of the best if not the best stadium in the country," she said. "We didn't have the true stadium atmosphere before like Michigan and Penn State has. So now to have a stadium to call home will really help us build a home field advantage and make our games even more special."

Peterson said she is really excited to see the fans and expects more of them because of the night games. She doesn't think there is more pressure on her and her teammates to do well just because they have a new stadium and bigger crowds. "It adds motivation," she said.

In terms of what kind of success the team will have this season depends on better team chemistry than last year.

"Our team chemistry wasn't where we would have liked it," Peterson said of what was lacking in 2014. "Half of our team were freshmen so half of the team didn't know the other half. This year the team is closer because we went through the spring season together and all got to go to Canada to play and watch some World Cup games."

"We have everything lining up for us this season," she said. "Our coach said, 'We have provided everything possible for you guys, now it is up to you'."



Photos by Mitch Otto



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and Saturday morning pregame talk this fall on**



2015 Schedule

Nebraska Invite at Devaney Center

Aug. 28	Tulsa	7 p.m.
Aug. 29	Grand Canyon	12 p.m.
Aug. 29	Pittsburgh	7 p.m.

Vertical Challenge at Austin, Texas

Sept. 4	Texas	6 p.m.
Sept. 5	Oregon	5 p.m.

Ameritas Challenge at Devaney Center

Sept. 11	UC Davis	6 p.m.
Sept. 12	USF	10 am.
Sept. 12	Georgia Tech	3:30 p.m.

Sept. 15	at Creighton	7 p.m.
Sept. 19	at Iowa State	4 p.m.
Sept. 23	at Iowa	7 p.m.
Sept. 26	Iowa	7 p.m.
Oct. 2	at Penn State	6 p.m.
Oct. 3	at Ohio State	6 p.m.
Oct. 7	Mich. State	7 p.m.
Oct. 10	Michigan	7 p.m.
Oct. 16	at Northwestern	7 p.m.
Oct. 17	at Illinois	7:30 p.m.
Oct. 23	Minnesota	7 p.m.
Oct. 24	Wisconsin	7 p.m.
Oct. 30	Rutgers	7 p.m.
Oct. 31	Maryland	7 p.m.
Nov. 4	at Purdue	6 p.m.
Nov. 7	at Indiana	6 p.m.
Nov. 11	at Mich. State	6 p.m.
Nov. 14	at Maryland	6 p.m.
Nov. 18	Indiana	7 p.m.
Nov. 21	at Michigan	6:30 p.m.
Nov. 25	Illinois	7 p.m.
Nov. 28	Penn State	7 p.m.
Dec. 4-5	NCAA 1st, 2nd Rds	TBD
Dec. 11-12	NCAA Regionals	- TBD
Dec. 17	NCAA Semis at Omaha	
Dec. 19	NCAA Final at Omaha	



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2015 Nebraska Volleyball Roster

No.	Name	Position	Ht.	Yr.	Hometown (Previous School)
2	Mikaela Foecke	MB/OH	6-3	Fr.	West Point, Iowa (Holy Trinity Catholic)
3	Kelly Hunter	Setter	5-11	So.	Papillion, Neb. (Papillion-La Vista South)
4	Justine Wong-Orantes	Libero	5-11	Jr.	Cypress, Calif. (Los Alamitos)
5	Amber Rolfzen	Outside Hitter	5-11	Jr.	Papillion, Neb. (Papillion-La Vista South)
6	Kadie Rolfzen	Outside Hitter	5-11	Jr.	Papillion, Neb. (Papillion-La Vista South)
7	Sydney Townsend	Libero	5-11	So.	Lincoln, Neb. (Pius X)
8	Brooke Smith	Setter	5-11	Fr.	Weatherford, Texas (Azle)
9	Cecilia Hall	Middle Blocker	5-11	Sr.	Linkoping, Sweden (Allebergsgymnasiet)
10	Alicia Ostrander	Outside Hitter	5-11	Sr.	Gordon, Neb. (Gordon-Rushville)
11	Kenzie Maloney	DS/Libero	5-11	Fr.	Louisville, Ky. (Assumption)
13	Briana Holman	Middle Blocker	5-11	Jr.	DeSoto, Texas (LSU) (Cedar Hill)
14	Kelsey Fien	Outside Hitter	5-11	Sr.	Bakersfield, Calif. (Frontier)
17	Annika Albrecht	Outside Hitter	5-11	So.	North Aurora, Ill. (Home Schooled)
20	Meghan Haggerty	Middle Blocker	5-11	Sr.	Glen Ellyn, Ill. (Benet Academy)
22	Tiani Reeves	MB/OH	5-11	Fr.	Gothenburg, Neb. (Gothenburg)
27	Olivia Boender	Outside Hitter	5-11	RFr.	Waverly, Neb. (Waverly)

Coaches: John Cook, Dani Busboom-Kelly, Chris Tamas, Jen Tamas

Director of Operations: Lindsey Peterson

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Q&A – Head Volleyball Coach John Cook

16th Season at Nebraska

Interview by Bob Hamar

Coming off four-straight Elite Eight finishes, Nebraska enters the 2015 season hungry to take the next step, especially with the Final Four being in Omaha this season. Here's what head coach John Cook has to say about this year's team.

Q: What is it about this team specifically that give them the opportunity to go to the Final Four this year?

A: One I think Kelly Hunter has been waiting for two years for this opportunity. I think she wants to be the leader of this team. She has the confidence and maturity to really lead this team and by a high-level setter and a really volleyball player.

The second thing is the majority of this team we've had now for two years. They've gone through the wars, they know what it's going to take. They knew starting in January what they needed to work on. We know our weaknesses and what we have to try and clean up. I just think we have experience and wisdom.

We lost a lot of close matches last year. In fact, I counted up in three of the matches we lost, nine of the games were by two points. We were right there, but we have to find a way to win those close games. I think our experience and wisdom and things they've been working on will allow them to do that. That's what gives me a lot of belief in this group.

Q: Do you treat this team differently now that it's a veteran team because you've talked about their youth and inexperience the last couple of years?

A: I don't know if I treat them any different. We've spent all week because (assistants) Chris (Tamas) and Jen (Tamas) are new, just talking through things and it's been really good. We're still going to train and develop systems that have been good for us. That's what we're going to do. And then each team challenges you as to how to deal with certain situations and certain players and things that might come up. We've kind of talked about that all week. We'll have to see how that unfolds. To answer your question, I think every team we probably coach differently depending on their personality.

Q: Do you get the sense that the upperclassmen feel that sense of urgency?

A: No question. Two of the players I think are a good barometer for our team are Kadie (Rolfzen) and Amber (Rolfzen). Both those guys have broke several records, and they've gone really, really hard. I think they're a good example. They realize now they can't just rely on their talent. They have to work hard. That's a really good example of that.

I know Cici (Hall) broke records. Cici is already in freak mode. She broke the record, then (Briana Holman) broke her record. They're like trading records back and forth. Those are three players right there that have set a great example..

Q: It sounds like you're pretty excited about where this team is athletically.

A: Yeah, we have the athletes to compete with anybody. Now it's going to be can we be a great team. To me, (that means) serve and pass is at a high level. A really high level. Kelsey Robinson is starting for the No. 1 team (U.S. National Team) because she's a great



passer. It just shows you. When we had her – even though we were super young – but because of her not only did she pass well but the players around her passed well. Justine (Wong-Orantes) now has developed into a great passer. I think Kenzie (Maloney) and Anni (Albrecht) have chances to be great passer. Kadie at times has been a great passer. She just has to be more consistent. So that passing is going to be a really important piece for us.

Q: How about the Big Ten Conference?

A: I'm trying to figure out who's the weak team in the conference. I mean everybody is good. A lot of teams return everybody. Iowa has upgraded through several transfers. Probably the team that took the biggest hit is Penn State. They lost some key players, but they have as much talent as anybody. We'll see how they come together. It's going to be a really tough conference.

Q: Do the walls in your office shake when they kick on the new speaker system?

A: It's unbelievable. First of all, the video board lights up the whole thing up there. It's like the morning sun coming in there. Then the walls vibrate. They've been testing it all week. It's like a concert going on.

Q: Will that new video board come into play?

A: It could. It's the same height as the one at Washington and we hit it once in practice. It's going to be difficult, but if it hits on your side you can still play it, so we'll have to prepare our team for that.

NEBRASKA VOLLEYBALL NOTEBOOK

Compiled by Bob Hamar • Photo by Michael Spomer

FOECKE IMPRESSES TEAMMATES

Freshman Mikaela Foecke has yet to play an actual match for the Huskers, but she has already impressed her teammates and coaches.

All summer long the 6-foot-3 middle/outside hitter from Fort Madison, Iowa, was in the gym, working to get better as her freshman season approached.

"I have definitely noticed she likes to get in the gym like any time possible," sophomore setter Kelly Hunter said. "Like any break in a camp she was in the gym. She's just a genuine hard worker. Right now she's been training a lot on the right side. She likes it nice and fast. She can hit basically any shot so she's a player with a lot of range."

Cook said Foecke will start her career at rightside hitter, and will likely be in the lineup right away. He said sophomore Annika Albrecht, who was a back-row player last year, is pushing to play all the way around.

"I think that's why we're going to put Mikaela on the right and see how she can do over there," Cook said. "She's a former middle so she can hit really fast tempo sets. So we can use her in certain situations and see if we can go faster."

Cook said no one worked harder than Foecke over the summer.

"I've seen that kid in the gym more than any kid we've had," Cook said. "She's literally here three times a day. I've seen buckets of balls all over the place and she's down there serving by herself. She's also wasn't in school so that helps, but I think she's really driven. I'm very confident she's going to come in here and make a big impact."

FASTER TEMPO FOR HUSKERS

The Huskers certainly haven't gone at a slow pace the last few years. But the tempo this season may be even faster than it's been in the past.

"The other day I was in with Kadie and Mikaela," Hunter said. "I thought Kadie wanted to run it a little bit higher, and she was like, 'No. Let's go faster.' So



I think we're going to see a little bit more of that this year."

Kadie Rolfzen said she likes it fast.

"Everyone is different with their tempo," Kadie said. "I'm more of a faster and higher type person where (Kelsey) Fien is more of a faster, not so much higher. Kelly is good at knowing who does what and what it needs to be."

HUSKERS WATCH U.S. TEAM IN OMAHA

The current Husker players all got to go Omaha to watch the U.S. National Team play in the FIVB World Grand Prix Finals at the Centurylink Center in July.

Former Huskers Jordan Larson (2005-08), Kelsey Robinson (2013) and Kayla Banwarth (2007-10), pictured above, all played key roles for the U.S. team that won the tournament.

"I think it was so cool that every time the announced Jordan or Kayla the crowd was just nuts," Hunter said. "It's like Nebraska is going to follow you no matter how far you go. It's really awesome that our fan base is that tight."

WONG-ORANTES ENJOYS TRIP

Junior libero Justine Wong-Orantes

took part in the first ever Big Ten Foreign Tour this past summer. The team traveled to Croatia, Slovenia and Italy June 13-25.

The Big Ten team competed in seven matches and hosted a volleyball clinic. It also participated in several community outreach activities. One player from each of the 14 Big Ten teams went on the trip.

"It was awesome getting to know all the players from each team," Wong-Orantes said. "You kind of have a perceived assumption of them playing on the other side of the net, and then you get to play on the same side of the net. It was a great experience. Just to get to know them off the court was cool too."

WHY NOT NOW

Cook always has some kind of motivational phrase cooked up for his team. This year, it's, "Why not now?"

Hunter said the Huskers embraced the phrase in the spring. With the Final Four coming back to Omaha in December, why not?

"Very few teams actually make it happen," Hunter said. "Our time is now. The Final Four is in Omaha, so why not do it now?"

FOCUSED TO SUCCEED



Junior Kadie Rolfzen's goal is to win a NCAA national championship

Story by Shane G. Gilster • Photos by Jimmy Rash & Mitch Otto

Kadie Rolfzen must like pressure. While interviewing her for this story, she seemed unfazed by the fact there will be more pressure than normal this season to win. If you haven't heard the Final Four is in Omaha this year.

The NCAA Championship comes to Omaha for the third time in the last 10 years; the last time was in 2008. If history is on the side of the Huskers, they should be there again. The other two times saw NU win the championship in 2006 and lose in the semi-finals to Penn State in 2008.

Rolfzen, who is from Papillion, a suburb of Omaha, seems to embrace the opportunity for her team to be one of those four teams playing there come December.

"I feel like we are more excited than anything," said Rolfzen who was asked about having more pressure. "Imagine how sweet it would be to play in front of 17,000 fans. We are just excited that it is in our home state and we have the possibility of winning the national championship there."

If they can live up to the preseason hype, Nebraska should be one of the favorites to make it. NU is picked to finish second by the Big Ten coaches and tied for 5th in the AVCA Coaches Pre-

season Poll.

Rolfzen and teammate Kelsey Fien were named to the pre-season All-Big Ten team. The 6-foot-3 Rolfzen in particular is gunning for her third-straight All-Conference selection. She also looks to nab All-American honors once again after being named AVCA third-team the last two years.

In the annual Red-White Scrimmage in August, Rolfzen showed she is that caliber of player once again as she led the Red team over the White with 17 kills.

"I got high expectations for her, and I thought she was showing that she's a big-time player tonight," said head coach John Cook after the scrimmage."

All-Conference and All-American honors are great for most players but for Rolfzen the award she is most proud of is the Nebraska Student-Athlete HERO Leadership Award.

"For this award you have to do so many community outreach events. That was something I never did before I got to Nebraska. It was something we had to do but as I did it I liked it and wanted to do more in the community," Rolfzen said.

Husker fans can't help but root for such a well-rounded indi-



5 questions with Kadie Rolfzen

What is your major in college?

My major is Advertising and Public Relations.

What do you want to do after you graduate?

I want to work for Nike. But if I can continue to play volleyball like Jordan Larson, I would do that first.

Do you have any rituals before games?

The thing I have to do before the game is put all my left stuff on first and then my right stuff. And then I have to braid my hair five minutes before we go out on the court.

Is there another college volleyball program that has fans similar to Nebraska's?

The only fans that compare to ours in Nebraska are Washington's. They have a similar home court and are hyped about volleyball there.

What has been the biggest win for you thus far at Nebraska?

Last year when we beat Washington in Seattle to advance to the Elite Eight.

vidual as Rolfzen. Not only does she star for the Nebraska volleyball team but she is a native Cornhusker.

"Growing up I idolized Jordan Larson. She is from Nebraska and so am I. She played my position and had an impact on this Husker program from the get go," Rolfzen said.

Rolfzen and her sister Amber were the youngest players ever to commit to the NU volleyball program. They gave their pledge to Nebraska the summer before their freshman year at Papillion-La Vista South High School.

Even though Kadie has garnered more accolades at NU, she and Amber were rated about the same coming out of high school. Kadie was the No. 5 player and Amber the No. 8 player in the country by PrepVolleyball.com.

Now both are juniors at Nebraska and are the ready to take their games and team to the next level.

"Kadie and Amber are a good barometer of our team," Cook said. "They broke several records over the off season but cannot just rely on their talent, they have to work hard. Kadie has been passing at a really high level; she just needs to be more consistent. We need to pass at that high level, if we do

we win."

Kadie agrees with her coach that she needs to keep working hard and make sure she does the things she needs to do to make herself better than last year.

"At this level everyone is good so you have to figure out something that makes you better than everybody else," she said. "So you need to perfect that so you can have an edge over someone else."

One thing that has helped is playing Beach Volleyball with Amber this past season. "The main thing is on defense you have to be in the right position. You anticipate and just go there. Practices are half the time than regular volleyball on the hard court because your legs get tired faster. That helps you prepare for the hard court," Kadie said.

All that preparation and work should payoff well for Kadie and her teammates this fall. Both are primed to have a great year and would love to cap it off with a trip to Omaha.

"My goal before I leave Nebraska is to win a national championship," Kadie said. "So why not do it this year in our home state!"

September 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4 Soccer Dayton Dayton, Ohio Volleyball VERT Challenge Texas Austin, Texas Cross Country Augustana Twilight Sioux Falls, S.D.	5 Football Brigham Young Memorial Stadium Volleyball VERT Challenge Oregon Austin, Texas
6 Soccer DePaul Chicago, Ill.	7 Women's Golf Kansas State Invitational Manhattan, Kan.	8 Women's Golf Kansas State Invitational Manhattan, Kan. Men's Golf Colorado-Ballyneal Challenge Holyoke, Colo. (Ballyneal Golf Club)	9	10	11 Volleyball Ameritas Players Challenge South Florida vs. Georgia Tech Devaney Center Volleyball Ameritas Players Challenge UC Davis Devaney Center Soccer North Carolina Barbara Hibner Stadium	12 Volleyball Ameritas Players Challenge USF Devaney Center Volleyball Ameritas Players Challenge Georgia Tech vs. UC Davis Devaney Center Volleyball Ameritas Players Challenge Georgia Tech Devaney Center Volleyball Ameritas Players Challenge UC Davis vs. South Florida Devaney Center Football South Alabama Memorial Stadium
13 Men's Golf D.A. Weibring Intercollegiate Normal, Ill. (Weibring Golf Club) Soccer Missouri Columbia, Mo. Softball Red-White Scrimmage Doris Bair Complex	14 Men's Golf D.A. Weibring Intercollegiate Normal, Ill. (Weibring Golf Club)	15 Volleyball Creighton Omaha, Neb. (CenturyLink Center)	16	17	18 Women's Tennis Missouri Invitational Kansas City, Mo. Soccer Michigan Ann Arbor, Mich.	19 Women's Tennis Missouri Invitational Kansas City, Mo. Cross Country Woody Greeno/Nebraska Invitational Pioneers Park Softball South Dakota Bowlin Stadium Football Miami FL Miami, Fla. Volleyball Iowa State Ames, Iowa
20 Women's Tennis Missouri Invitational Kansas City, Mo. Soccer Michigan State East Lansing, Mich. Softball South Dakota Bowlin Stadium	21 Women's Golf GolfWeek Conference Challenge Vail, Colo.	22 Women's Golf GolfWeek Conference Challenge Vail, Colo.	23 Women's Golf GolfWeek Conference Challenge Vail, Colo. Softball Bellevue University Bowlin Stadium Volleyball Iowa Iowa City, Iowa	24	25 Swimming and Diving Scarlet vs. Cream Intrasquad Devaney Natatorium Soccer Penn State Barbara Hibner Stadium	26 Men's Golf Jackrabbit Invitational Valentine, Neb. (The Prairie Club) Football Homecoming Southern Miss Memorial Stadium Volleyball Iowa Devaney Center
27 Men's Golf Jackrabbit Invitational Valentine, Neb. (The Prairie Club) Soccer Ohio State Barbara Hibner Stadium	28 Men's Golf Jackrabbit Invitational Valentine, Neb. (The Prairie Club)	29	30			

PORTS CALENDAR

HUSKERS
ILLUSTRATED

October 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
					Softball Big Red Fall Classic Omaha Bowlin Stadium	Football Illinois Champaign, Ill.
					Soccer Purdue West Lafayette, Ind.	Men's Tennis All American ~ Tulsa, Oklahoma
					Volleyball Penn State University Park, Pa.	Cross Country Kansas Invitational Lawrence, Kan.
						Softball Big Red Fall Classic Colorado State Bowlin Stadium
						Swimming and Diving Arkansas Devaney Natatorium
						Softball Big Red Fall Classic Omaha Bowlin Stadium
						Softball Big Red Fall Classic Colorado State vs. Omaha Bowlin Stadium
						Volleyball Ohio State Columbus, Ohio
4 Men's Tennis All American ~ Tulsa, Oklahoma	5 Men's Tennis All American ~ Tulsa, Oklahoma	6 Men's Tennis All American ~ Tulsa, Oklahoma	7 Men's Tennis All American ~ Tulsa, Oklahoma	8 Men's Tennis All American ~ Tulsa, Oklahoma	9 Men's Tennis All American ~ Tulsa, Oklahoma	10 Men's Tennis All American ~ Tulsa, Oklahoma
Softball Big Red Fall Classic Colorado State vs. Omaha Bowlin Stadium	Men's Golf Bruce Fossum Memorial Benton Harbor, Mich. (Point O' Woods Golf Club)	Men's Golf Bruce Fossum Memorial Benton Harbor, Mich. (Point O' Woods Golf Club)	Volleyball Michigan State Devaney Center	Soccer Minnesota Barbara Hibner Stadium	Swimming and Diving Iowa State Devaney Natatorium	Football Wisconsin Memorial Stadium
Softball Big Red Fall Classic Colorado State Bowlin Stadium	Women's Golf Chip-N Club Invitational Country Club of Lincoln	Women's Golf Chip-N Club Invitational Country Club of Lincoln				Rifle Air Force Colorado Springs, Colo.
						Volleyball Michigan Devaney Center
11 Men's Tennis All American ~ Tulsa, Oklahoma	12 Women's Golf Pinehurst Challenge Pinehurst, N.C.	13 Women's Golf Pinehurst Challenge Pinehurst, N.C.	14 Baseball Red/White Series Red/White Series Game 2 Hawks Field	15 Women's Tennis Central Regional Invitational Stillwater, Okla.	16 Women's Tennis Central Regional Invitational Stillwater, Okla.	17 Women's Tennis Central Regional Invitational Stillwater, Okla.
Rifle West Virginia Colorado Springs, Colo.		Baseball Red/White Series Red/White Series Game 1 Hawks Field		Baseball Red/White Series Red/White Series Game 3 Hawks Field	Men's Tennis Regional Tournament ~ Fayetteville, Arkansas	Men's Tennis Regional Tournament ~ Fayetteville, Arkansas
Softball Creighton Bowlin Stadium				Soccer Northwestern Evanston, Ill.	Cross Country Bradley Classic Peoria, Ill.	Football Minnesota Minneapolis, Minn.
Soccer Wisconsin Barbara Hibner Stadium					Volleyball Northwestern Evanston, Ill.	Volleyball Illinois Champaign, Ill.
18 Women's Tennis Central Regional Invitational Stillwater, Okla.	19 Women's Tennis Central Regional Invitational Stillwater, Okla.	20 Men's Golf Maryland Invitational Rockville, Md. (Woodmont Country Club)	21	22	23	24
Men's Tennis Regional Tournament ~ Fayetteville, Arkansas	Men's Tennis Regional Tournament ~ Fayetteville, Arkansas				Women's Tennis Drake Invitational Des Moines, Iowa	Women's Tennis Drake Invitational Des Moines, Iowa
Soccer Illinois Champaign, Ill.	Men's Golf Maryland Invitational Rockville, Md. (Woodmont Country Club)			Soccer Iowa Iowa City, Iowa	Football Northwestern Memorial Stadium	Football Northwestern Memorial Stadium
				Volleyball Minnesota Devaney Center	Swimming and Diving Alumni Meet Devaney Natatorium	Swimming and Diving Alumni Meet Devaney Natatorium
25 Women's Tennis Drake Invitational Des Moines, Iowa	26 Women's Golf UNLV Collegiate Las Vegas, Nev.	27 Women's Golf UNLV Collegiate Las Vegas, Nev.	28 Soccer Maryland Barbara Hibner Stadium	29	30 Swimming and Diving Northern Iowa Cedar Falls, Iowa	31 Rifle North Carolina State Charleston, S.C.
Rifle TCU Fort Worth, Texas					Volleyball Rutgers Devaney Center	Football Purdue West Lafayette, Ind.
Women's Golf UNLV Collegiate Las Vegas, Nev.						Swimming and Diving South Dakota State Devaney Natatorium
						Volleyball Maryland Devaney Center

Mikaela Foecke



Kelly Hunter



Justine Wong-Orantes



Amber Rolfzen



Kadie Rolfzen



Sydney Townsend



Brooke Smith



Cecilia Hall



Alicia Ostrander



2015
N
Senior

Kenzie Maloney



2015
N
Freshman

Briana Holman



2015
N
Junior

Kelsey Fien



2015
N
Senior

Annika Albrecht



2015
N
Sophomore

Meghan Haggerty



2015
N
Senior

Tiani Reeves



2015
N
Freshman

Olivia Boender



2015
N
Freshman

Waiting Her Turn

Holman must sit out until 2016 season

Story by Bob Hamar • Photo by Jimmy Rash

Briana Holman won't be playing volleyball for Nebraska this season.

The 6-foot-1 middle blocker -- who was a first-team All-American at LSU last year -- elected to transfer to Nebraska in January with the hope that LSU coach Fran Flory would grant her release to play this fall.

But that release never came, so now Holman will be redshirting this season and will still have two years of eligibility remaining.

"I'm just going to take this time to take extra classes since I won't be traveling," Holman said. "Just trying to change it into a positive, work harder in the weight room...Yeah, maybe it's a blessing in disguise."

Holman will certainly be ready to go when she gets on the court in 2016. Now she knows she can play at a big-time program like Nebraska in a big-time conference like the Big Ten. When she was a junior at Cedar Hills High School in DeSoto, Texas, she wasn't sure if she was good enough for that kind of competition..

So instead of joining John Cook's program at Nebraska, she went to Louisiana State to play for the Tigers.

"I was a junior when I committed to LSU," Holman said. "Coming out of high school, I didn't really have the confidence that I could play at this level."

Now after two years at LSU, Holman knows she can play anywhere in the country, and that includes the Big Ten. Also, Southeastern Conference volleyball just wasn't cutting it for Holman.

"There were a bunch of different things at LSU," Holman said. "Although the program was taking big steps, they weren't close to the goals and aspirations I had as an individual. I just felt like Nebraska is always a power-house and produces very good athletes with successful careers after college."

Holman led the Tigers last season in kills (3.94 per set) and blocks (1.47) while hitting .383 and helping LSU to a 20-9 mark. She had 19 kills in a loss to Oregon in the second round of the NCAA tournament in her final match at LSU.

Holman also considered transferring to either two-time defending national champion Penn State or Washington. In the end she decided Washington was too far away, and the Huskers edged out the Nittany Lions because of the program's focus on the total person.

Holman is majoring in criminal justice with a minor in sociology. She said she's not sure what she'll do after volleyball, but she's confident Nebraska will help prepare her for life after athletic career is over.

"I feel like here at Nebraska, they work on the total person or the total player," Holman said. "They really focus on the academic side and obviously athletics but also doing the best they can to make you a better person in the end. I just really liked that."

Holman is the third former SEC player to transfer to Nebraska in the past two years. First-team All-American Kelsey Robinson and Mary Pollmiller, who was the only senior on the Huskers in 2014, transferred from Tennessee after the 2012 season.

Holman read a story about Pollmiller on the Internet that helped her make the decision to come to Lincoln.

"She was saying it was a great experience and she wished she would have done it two years earlier," Holman said.





A Stroll Down Rasmussen Road With

JORDAN LARSON

Volleyball Player 2005-08

Column by Butch Rasmussen • Photo by Michael Spomer

She went from a small town do everything athlete to an outstanding three time All-America volleyball player about as fast as you can say "big time star rizen."

Jordan Larson, came out of Hooper, Nebraska, population 819, totally prepared for the Husker spotlight.

She played football, basketball, volleyball and softball in high school and was honored with a position on the Super State volleyball team all 3 years in high school. Football? Really? Football? "Well, yeah, I won my division of the punt pass and kick contest in school, beating all the boys," she said.

As a noted prep athlete she wrangled a spot on Volleyball Magazine's Fab 50 and was ranked the No. 2 player in the country by www.prepvolleyball.com. She also competed in basketball and track and set numerous records that can test patience if you try to read all of them in one sitting.

She was just 19 years old the first time she stepped out on the court for the Huskers. How'd you feel that first time out?, I asked. "scared, nervous, but driven by the confidence that I knew I could do this and do it well," she said.

That confidence led to four years as a starter at outside hitter for the Huskers from 2005-2008.

I asked Jordan about her days playing volleyball in the friendly confines of the 4,000-seat coliseum compared to if she had the opportunity to have played in the 8,000-seat Devaney Center that is now home to the Husker volleyball team. She expressed the classic universal expression that you can't beat the crowds close to the floor though limited in numbers at the Coliseum, but it would have been nice to experience the Devaney Center with its packed house of over 8,000 Big Red volleyball supporters. Jordan spent her entire career performing in the Coliseum.

I asked her how many times she's been back for a match since she left 7 years ago. "Only about once a year," she said.

When we spoke they were in California working hard preparing for the FIVB World Cup and they left on Aug. 15 for that event in Japan. That tournament is a qualification process for the 2016 Olympic games in Rio with the top two of the 12 teams qualifying for the Olympics.

After Jordan's marriage to Luke Burbach in the spring of 2009 she became Jordan Larson-Burbach, and also became a world traveler,

playing five years of professional volleyball in Russia for team Dinamo Kazan, for whom she collected a world championship in 2014.

"Russia's a tough gig - it's not easy at all but they were nice to us. It's a big country and the travel is long and tiring," she said. "The language barrier was difficult but we always had someone on the team, a coach or someone who could help."

After five years with Russia, Jordan signed to play for Istanbul, Turkey, a city of nearly 15 million people and led that team to a world championship in May of this year. That team was known as Ezacibasi Vitra. Jordan was MVP of that tournament. "Istanbul's a big city but it was a good experience," she said.

Between those two championships she signed on to play for the USA in the FIVB volleyball World Championships in Italy and you guessed it. She came home with the gold. Three world championships in one year.

Now lets see if I've got this straight. Jordan won a world championship for Russia in Azerbaijan

She won a world championship for the USA in Italy and she won a world championship for Istanbul, Turkey in Zurich, Switzerland and all in a year's time. I hope she has a passport.

Did I tell you she grew up in Hooper, Nebraska, population 819?

The people in Turkey were calling her the girl with the built-in title guarantee. Jordan was the darling of Istanbul. Her picture was on the front page of the news papers.

The headline: **MVP JORDAN LARSON! WE ARE PROUD OF YOU!**

She says today it's kinda hard to put down roots. She spends half the year in Istanbul playing volleyball for Ezacibasi Vitra and the other half of the year in Anaheim, California working out for World Cup events.

Luke travels with her some of the time and when they have the time they like to get back to Lincoln to see family and friends.

I asked, What's your opinion of Husker volleyball coach John Cook?

"I think he's a great coach. There's a lot of good history with him and he does a good job running the program," she said.

Do you think they can make a run at a national championship this season? "Oh, for sure, for sure, I'm excited for this program this year."

Larson-Burbach's team brought home Nebraska's last national championship when she was a sophomore in 2006 and she thinks they're ready to do it again.



Jordan Larson-Burbach



Date	Opponent	Location	Results		
Sat, Sep 05	BYU	Memorial Stadium	-		
Sat, Sep 12	South Alabama	Memorial Stadium	-		
Sat, Sep 19	Miami	at Miami, Fla.	-		
Sat, Sep 26	Southern Miss	Memorial Stadium	-		
Sat, Oct 03	Illinois*	at Champaign, Ill.	-		
Sat, Oct 10	Wisconsin*	Memorial Stadium	-		
Sat, Oct 17	Minnesota*	at Minneapolis, Minn.	-		
Sat, Oct 24	Northwestern*	Memorial Stadium	-		
Sat, Oct 31	Purdue*	at West Lafayette, Ind.	-		
Sat, Nov 07	Michigan State*	Memorial Stadium	-		
Sat, Nov 14	Rutgers*	at Piscataway, N.J.	-		
Fri, Nov 27	Iowa*	Memorial Stadium	-		
Sat, Dec. 05	Big Ten Championship*	at Indianapolis, Ind.	-		

*Conference Games



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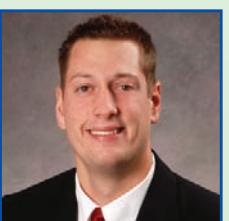
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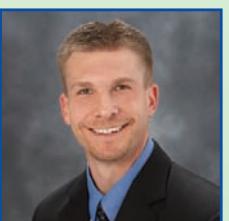
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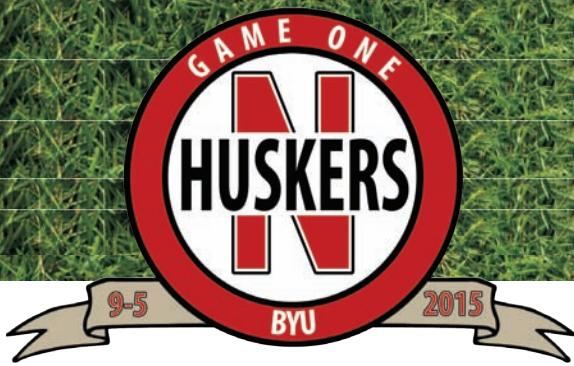


Pete Volz
North Platte
308-534-8404



Matt Woodward
Ord
308-728-5597

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2015 SCHEDULE

Sept. 5	@ Nebraska
Sept. 12	Boise State
Sept. 19	@ UCLA
Sept. 26	@ Michigan
Oct. 2	Connecticut
Oct. 10	East Carolina
Oct. 17	Cincinnati
Oct. 24	Wagner
Nov. 6	@ San Jose State
Nov. 14	Missouri*
Nov. 21	Fresno State
Nov. 28	Utah State

*Kansas City, Mo.

2014 RESULTS

@ Connecticut	W, 35-10
@ Texas	W, 41-7
Houston	W, 33-25
Virginia	W, 41-33
Utah State	L, 20-35
@ Central Florida	L, 24-31 (OT)
Nevada	L, 35-42
@ Boise State	L, 30-55
@ Mid. Tennessee	W, 27-7
UNLV	W, 42-23
Savannah State	W, 64-0
@ California	W, 42-35
Memphis*	L, 48-55 (2OT)

*Miami Beach Bowl

HEAD COACH

Bronco Mendenhall sports a 90-39 record in 10 seasons at BYU. It currently ranks No.13 nationally during that time frame for the most wins. After taking over as head coach in 2005, Mendenhall turned around a program that had three-straight losing seasons. The Cougars have gone to a bowl game every year since Mendenhall has been at the helm and hold a winning record in those games (6-4). BYU also has been good at home with the ninth-best winning percentage nationally (.820 (50-11) and 20th in road winning percentage (.589 (33-23)).



Taysom Hill

Story By Shane G. Gilster • Photos Courtesy of BYU Sports Information

Suspensions could curtail Cougars' bid for an upset

Beating Nebraska in Lincoln is always a tough task. But beating them in their home opener is about as tough as it gets.

The last time NU lost their first game of the season in front of the Big Red faithful was in 1985 against the Florida State Seminoles (17-13).

Initially, this game looked to be a tossup as Nebraska is in transition with a new coaching staff, and BYU returns a Heisman Trophy caliber quarterback with dynamic offensive weapons to compliment him.

BYU fans were very confident their team could roll into Lincoln and do what the Seminoles accomplished some 30 years ago.

But if you ask those same fans about their chances just weeks before the September 5 matchup, their optimism has waned.

First there was an announcement of 10 players being suspended for the Nebraska game for their role in the Miami Beach bowl game brawl against Memphis, then starting running back Jamaal Williams withdrew from school for personal reasons and won't play this season, and then starting tight end Steven Richards suffered a season-ending injury in fall camp.

To compound matters, sophomore linebacker Sione Takitaki who was looked at as one of the team's best pass rushers and slated to play against Nebraska, has been suspended for misdemeanor theft.

We have yet to learn who of the 10 players from that bowl game incident will be suspended for the Sept. 5 game but you can bet there will be some key contributors who would have played against the Huskers.

Hill shoulders the load

With all the negatives that have happened to the BYU football team so far this year, one big positive is their quarterback Taysom Hill. Nebraska defensive coordinator Mark Bunker likens the 6-2, 235-pound Hill to former Washington Husky quarterback Jake Locker.

Last season Hill helped the Cougars start the season at 4-0 with a No. 18 national ranking before he suffered a season-ending injury. So he has the ability to put the team on his shoulders for at least some of their games, and none is more critical than the one against the Huskers.

Hill is up to the challenge and has the confidence to go along with his ability.

"As long as I'm playing QB, my mindset will be making great decisions and getting the ball out on time. If I'm making the right decisions, then the defense can do what they want. They can blitz, they can drop eight. It doesn't matter, but whatever they do they will be wrong," Hill said.

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Running back by committee

With the surprising announcement of Williams leaving the team, BYU had to scramble in fall camp to find a suitable replacement at running back. Unfortunately no one stood out from the pack.

Adam Hine who is a dangerous kick returner for the Cougars might be the best alternative but he hasn't separated himself from junior Algernon Brown and senior Nate Carter. This has caused their offensive coordinator to likely employ a running back by committee approach.

"Algie and Adam and Nate have stepped up and they're very capable backs. We'll be very capable of running the football this year," Hill said.

Twin Towers

BYU averaged 37.1 points on offense last season, and if they are to match or go above that this season, the play at wide receiver will play a big role.

The word "big" is appropriate because the Cougars feature two receivers that fit the bill.

At 6-foot-6, Mitch Mathews is one of the best in the country and is a preseason candidate for the Biletnikoff Award. He led BYU with 922 receiving yards and nine touchdowns last year and is poised to have a great senior season.

Then you have the 6-foot-5 Nick Kurtz, a junior college transfer in 2014 who missed the year with an injury. Kurtz has become Hill's second favorite target and could draw double-coverage.

"We refer to Nick and Mitch as the twin towers," Mendenhall said. "It's hard to get matchups for 6'6" and 6'5" players that run pretty well."



Adam Hine



Mitch Mathews

Fast Facts

Location: Provo, Utah

Enrollment: 29,672

First Year of Football: 1922

Nickname: Cougars

Mascot: Cosmo

Colors: Dark Blue and White

Defense: 3-4

Offense: Multiple

2014 Record: 8-5

Affiliation:

FBS Independent

Lettermen Returning/Lost: 46/25

Offensive, Defensive Starters Returning/Lost: 16/10

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An improved defense

BYU's defense allowed 27.5 points per game last season, so there is room for improvement this season. That is why head coach Bronco Mendenhall has taken over the play calling on that side of ball.

Mendenhall returns seven starters, eight with starting experience, but we'll have to wait and see who among those players will be suspended for the Nebraska game.

Up front, the Cougars should be very good. Travis Tuiloma is a run stopper that can play anywhere along the line and senior Bronson Kaufusi is an absolute monster coming off the edge. At 6-8 and 255 pounds, Kaufusi will be tough to control and will get plenty of opportunities to make plays.

"The defense did a much better job of limiting explosive plays and executing without major breakdowns, which limited points," Mendenhall said of fall practices. "I like where our team is. We're still ways to go before we play, but I think we're on the right track."

Did You Know?

- BYU won the National Championship in 1984.
- BYU and Penn State are the only schools in the nation to have a Heisman Trophy, Outland Trophy, Doak Walker Award, Davey O'Brien Award and Sammy Baugh Trophy winners.

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Bronson Kaufusi

Exclusive Company

BYU has a proven record as one of the most consistent winners in all of college football over the past four decades. In fact, over the past 40 seasons (1975-2014), the Cougars rank No.5 in total wins among all FBS programs with 354. Just four schools (Nebraska - 389, Ohio State - 366, Florida State - 365 and Oklahoma - 365) have more victories than BYU over that time span. BYU's .703 winning percentage since 1975 ranks ninth.

MOST WINS LAST 40 SEASONS (1975-2014)

Team Record Pct.	
1. Nebraska 389-113-2	.773
2. Ohio State 366-111-7	.763
3. Florida State 365-116-4	.756
4. Oklahoma 365-123-6	.744
5. BYU 354-149-2	.703
6. Michigan 348-136-7	.715
7. Penn State 345-139-2	.711
8. Georgia 344-140-6	.708

Source : BYU Media Relations

Mission Driven

Over 70 percent of BYU's team has served a two-year Church mission. All of BYU's players take part in service opportunities throughout the community. This principle is a large factor in BYU's recruiting approach. Coaches evaluate not only the playing ability and academic achievement of possible recruits but also their moral character. BYU makes it a priority to develop a player's faith, and help make men of strength, courage, fortitude, and service.

- 321 missionaries that have served or are currently serving have been coached or recruited by Bronco Mendenhall
- 30 players are currently out serving full-time missions
- 72 players who participated in 2014 served full-time missions in over 25 different countries and 15 different states

Source : BYU Media Relations

The Ultimate Tailgate

Blur Parties adds standing tailgate location in Indianapolis for the Big Ten Football Championship

Story by Shane G. Gilster

The Lincoln based tailgate and event production company is excited to announce their new tailgate location for the Big Ten Football Championship in Indianapolis thru 2021.

Blur Parties has entertained a variety of teams and fans, including the Nebraska Cornhuskers during the championship games in 2011 and 2012. Should Nebraska make the championship game this season or in the future, watch for a Husker tailgate!

All of our tailgates include great food and drink, DJ's, TV's, tailgate games and mechanical bull rides. For Nebraska, we will have appearances from former Nebraska football players and surprise national entertainment.

Founded in 2008, Blur Parties has been hosting unique tailgate environments, creating the entire game day experience for clients and their guests by packaging transportation, hotel and game tickets.

Since its inception, Blur Parties has grown from Nebraska tailgates, both home and away games, to entertaining clients and guests during the College World Series. We also host Toast Nebraska, an annual wine festival in partnership with the Nebraska Winery and Grape Growers Association.

To find out more details about our annual events or to have us assist you with your own event, contact Stacy Leners at



402.882.2448 or by email at [stacy@blurparties.com](mailto:s Stacy@blurparties.com). To learn more about Blur Parties visit www.blurparties.com.

Planning and Executing a Successful Event

The key to entertaining clients is making the experience personal. Carefully listen to and learn about the interest of the person.

Think of all scenarios, good and bad, when planning an outing such as transportation, directions, hotel, tickets to an event, dress code, or if they can bring a guest. That way all pitfalls are avoided and you and your guests can enjoy your time together and the event will be successful.

Consider planning an

event that includes more than just a meal or drinks; include an activity you both enjoy. This will help foster great conversation both personally and may lead to great business outcomes as well!

A popular and unique avenue to entertain clients, over the last few years, has centered around sports here in Nebraska, both football and baseball. Blur Parties offer hospitality tailgate services for both Nebraska football home and away games, as well as during the College World Series.

Blur Parties takes the hard work out of putting together the outing to create a seamless avenue for clients to bring guests and

entertain without the worry of grilling, serving guests, setting up and tearing down. We also can put together the entire package from transportation, hotel to game day tickets to create the overall game day experience for everyone involved.

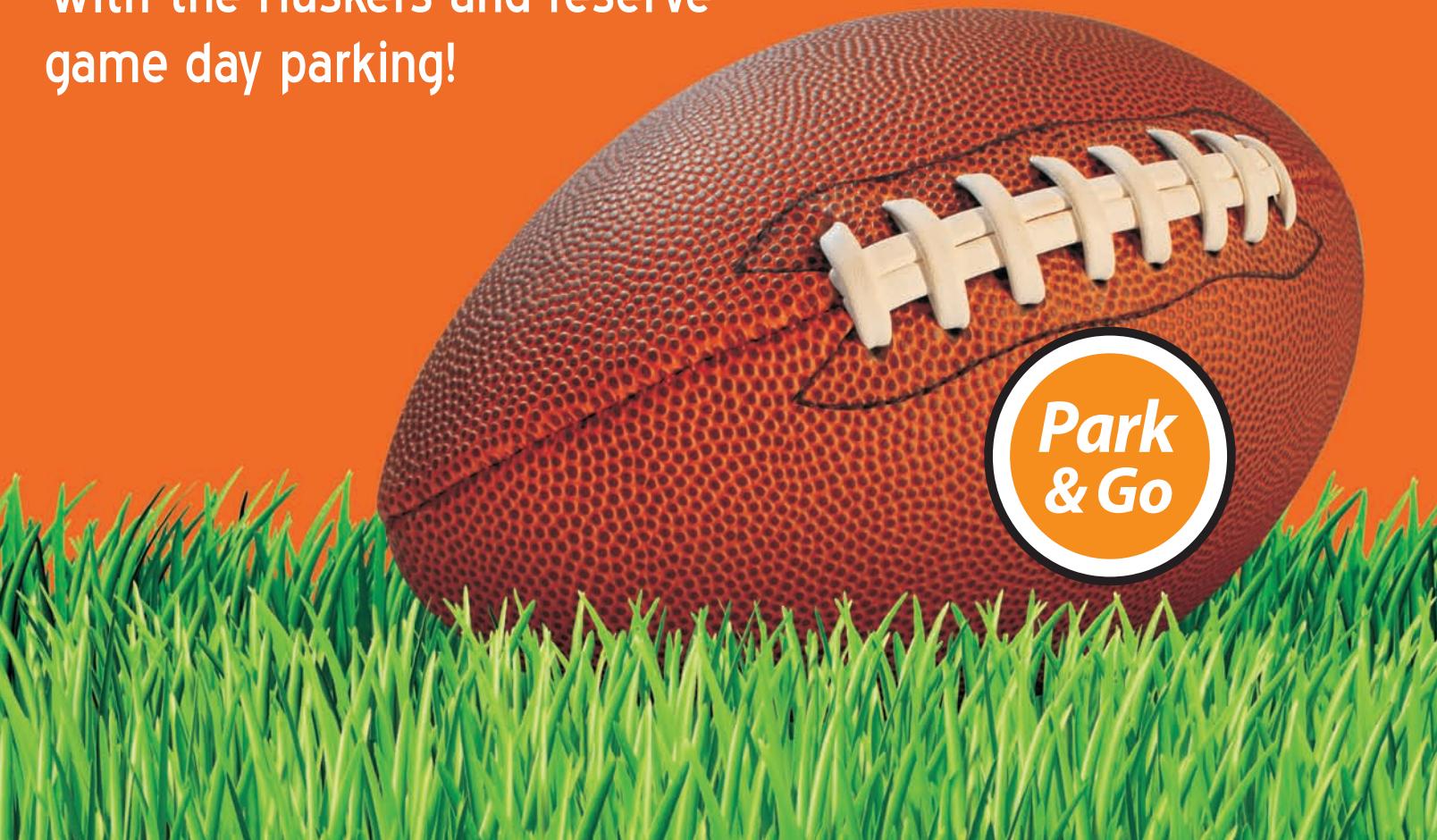
Enjoy your time together and don't force the transaction of business. Use the time to build the relationship with your client and end the event with a forwarding statement or next steps such as, "I've really enjoyed our time together and I'm excited to work with you!"

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Don't spend valuable pre-game time searching for parking before Husker kickoffs. Reserve your parking online for one game or the entire season at one of our convenient City garages. You'll save time and money AND qualify to win valuable prizes! We're giving away two Big Red Weekend Packages that include two tickets to the game, \$100 in Husker merchandise and a \$50 restaurant gift certificate.

It's easy to sign up at ***parkandgo.org***. So Go-Park-Win with the Huskers and reserve game day parking!



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2015 NEBRASKA FOOTBALL ROSTER

No	Name	Pos	Ht	Wt	Yr	Hometown (Prev School)	No	Name	Pos	Ht	Wt	Yr	Hometown (Prev School)
1	Joseph, Boaz	DB	6-1	190	So.	Weston, Fla. (Cypress Bay)	41	McNitt, Luke	TE	6-2	240	So.	Kearney, Neb. (Nebraska-Kearney) (Kearney)
1	Westerkamp, Jordan	WR	6-0	195	Jr.	Lombard, Ill. (Montini Catholic)	42	Foster, Trey	TE	6-0	245	Jr.	Lincoln, Neb. (Southeast)
2	Darlington, Zack	QB	6-2	205	RFr.	Apopka, Fla. (Apopka)	42	Koley, Creighton	DB	6-0	180	RFr.	Omaha, Neb. (Skutt Catholic)
2	Mosley, Trai	DB	5-10	170	RFr.	Pflugerville, Texas (Hendrickson)	43	Classen, Brett	WR	6-2	205	So.	Medina, Minn. (Winona State) (Wayzata)
2	Stevenson, Jordan	IB	5-9	205	Fr.	Dallas, Texas (South Oak Cliff)	43	Ferguson, Tyrin	LB	6-2	200	Fr.	New Orleans, La. (Edna Karr)
3	Alston, Lavan	WR	6-0	175	Fr.	Oxnard, Calif. (St. Bonaventure)	44	McCann, Mitch	FB	6-0	235	Jr.	Omaha, Neb. (Burke)
3	Newby, Marcus	LB	6-1	235	So.	North Potomac, Md. (Quince Orchard)	44	Stoltenberg, Mick	DL	6-5	265	RFr.	Gretna, Neb. (Gretna)
4	Anderson, Avery	DB	6-0	175	Fr.	Surprise, Ariz. (Pine Creek (Colorado Springs))	45	Natter, A.J.	DE	6-5	250	So.	Milton, Wis. (Milton)
4	Armstrong Jr., Tommy	QB	6-1	220	Jr.	Cibolo, Texas (Steele)	45	Reimers, Bryan	WR	6-5	210	RFr.	Lincoln, Neb. (Lincoln East)
5	Young, Dedrick	LB	6-1	220	Fr.	Peoria, Ariz. (Centennial)	47	Jarzynka, Matt	DE	6-4	240	RFr.	Loup City, Neb. (Loup City)
6	Bush, AJ	QB	6-3	220	RFr.	Alpharetta, Ga. (Norcross)	48	Evans, Erik	DE	6-3	255	So.	Waverly, Neb. (Waverly)
6	Lee Jr., Eric	DB	6-0	180	Fr.	Milton, Mass. (Valor Christian (Colorado))	48	Rahn, Gabe	WR	6-1	190	So.	Le Mars, Iowa (Le Mars)
7	Allen, Taariq	WR	6-3	200	Sr.	Weston, Mass. (The Rivers School)	49	Hemphill, Austin	FB	6-0	220	Fr.	Gretna, Neb. (Gretna)
7	Collins, Maliek	DT	6-2	300	Jr.	Kansas City, Mo. (Center)	49	Weber, Chris	LB	6-3	220	So.	Omaha, Neb. (Elkhorn)
8	Jones, Chris	DB	6-0	180	So.	Jacksonville, Fla. (Sandalwood)	50	Johns, Garret	DL	6-0	280	Jr.	Aurora, Neb. (Aurora)
8	Morgan Jr., Stanley	WR	6-0	185	Fr.	New Orleans, La. (St. Augustine)	51	Brugmann, Jared	LB	6-2	225	Fr.	Gretna, Neb. (Gretna)
9	Broekemeier, Tyson	QB	6-1	200	Sr.	Aurora, Neb. (Aurora)	51	Freudenburg, Ryan	OL	6-5	305	RFr.	Norfolk, Neb. (Lutheran-Northeast)
9	Burtch, Sam	WR	6-3	200	Sr.	Murdock, Neb. (Elmwood-Murdock)	52	Banderas, Josh	LB	6-2	235	Jr.	Lincoln, Neb. (Southwest)
9	Neal, DaiShon	DE	6-7	250	Fr.	Omaha, Neb. (Central)	53	Boryca, Alex	LB	6-2	220	RFr.	Cozad, Neb. (Cozad)
10	Kalu, Joshua	DB	6-1	185	So.	Houston, Texas (Alief Taylor)	54	Painter, Robby	OL	6-4	290	Jr.	Centennial, Colo. (Grandview)
10	Turner, Jamal	WR	6-1	190	Sr.	Arlington, Texas (Sam Houston)	54	Poppen, Garrett	LB	6-1	215	RFr.	Giltner, Neb. (Giltner)
11	Carter, Cethan	TE	6-4	240	Jr.	New Orleans, La. (Archbishop Rummel)	55	Maurice, Kevin	DT	6-3	280	Jr.	Orlando, Fla. (Freedom)
12	Gifford, Luke	LB	6-3	215	RFr.	Lincoln, Neb. (Southeast)	55	Thurston, Paul	OL	6-5	295	Jr.	Arvada, Colo. (Arvada West)
13	Hovey, Lane	WR	6-4	205	Jr.	Adel, Iowa (Adel-Desoto-Minburn)	56	Gaylord, Christian	OL	6-6	275	Fr.	Baldwin City, Kan. (Baldwin City)
13	Talan, Adrienne	LB	6-1	200	Fr.	Davie, Fla. (Flanagan)	56	Simpson, Brad	LB	6-0	225	Jr.	Omaha, Neb. (Ralston)
14	Rose, Jonathan	CB	6-1	195	Sr.	Leeds, Ala. (Auburn) (Leeds)	57	Sterup, Zach	OL	6-8	320	Sr.	Hastings, Neb. (Hastings St. Cecilia)
15	Pierson-El, De'Mornay	WR	5-9	185	So.	Alexandria, Va. (West Potomac)	57	Weinmaster, Jacob	LB	6-0	200	Fr.	Loveland, Colo. (Loveland)
15	Rose-Ivey, Michael	LB	5-11	240	Jr.	Kansas City, Mo. (Rockhurst)	58	Lopez, Joel	DL	6-2	260	So.	Saint Charles, Ill. (Burlington Central)
16	Reed, Antonio	DB	6-2	200	Fr.	Memphis, Tenn. (Southaven (Miss.))	58	Whitaker, Corey	OL	6-4	290	Jr.	Murrieta, Calif. (Vista Murrieta)
17	Fyfe, Ryker	QB	6-2	210	Jr.	Grand Island, Neb. (Grand Island)	59	Cleveland, Brody	LB	6-2	210	Fr.	Ogallala, Neb. (Ogallala)
17	King, Sedrick	DE	6-4	240	RFr.	Plant City, Fla. (Plant City)	59	Finnin, Matt	OL	6-7	305	Sr.	Crete, Ill. (College of DuPage) (Crete Monee)
18	Barry, Mohamed	LB	6-1	215	Fr.	Grayson, Ga. (Grayson)	62	Conrad, Cole	OL	6-5	290	RFr.	Fremont, Neb. (Archbishop Bergan)
19	Keels, Joe	DE	6-3	265	Sr.	Kenosha, Wis. (Highland CC) (Bradford)	63	Farmer, Tanner	OL	6-4	310	RFr.	Highland, Ill. (Highland)
21	Jackson, Charles	DB	5-11	180	Jr.	Spring, Texas (Klein Collins)	65	Reeves, Ryne	OL	6-3	300	Sr.	Crete, Neb. (Crete)
21	Wilbon, Mikale	IB	5-8	190	RFr.	Chicago, Ill. (De La Salle Institute)	66	Utter, Dylan	OL	6-1	285	Jr.	Papillion, Neb. (Papillion-LaVista)
22	Ozigbo, Devine	RB	5-11	225	Fr.	Sachse, Texas (Sachse)	67	Foster, Jerald	OL	6-3	310	RFr.	Lincoln, Neb. (Southeast)
22	Ridder, Anthony	DB	6-2	205	Sr.	West Point, Neb. (West Point Central Catholic)	68	Gates, Nick	OL	6-5	290	RFr.	Las Vegas, Nev. (Bishop Gorman)
23	Davie, Daniel	CB	6-1	190	Sr.	Beatrice, Neb. (Beatrice)	70	Kondolo, Chongo	OL	6-4	300	Sr.	Carrollton, Texas (Fresno City College) (Creekview)
23	Rose, Austin	IB	6-1	215	RFr.	Lincoln, Neb. (North Star)	71	Lewis, Alex	OL	6-6	290	Sr.	Tempe, Ariz. (Colorado) (Mountain Pointe)
24	Williams, Aaron	DB	5-11	185	Fr.	Atlanta, Ga. (Carver)	72	Hannon, Zach	OL	6-5	305	So.	Kansas City, Mo. (Rockhurst)
25	Gerry, Nate	S	6-2	205	Jr.	Sioux Falls, S.D. (Washington)	73	Hahn, Sam	OL	6-6	300	Jr.	DeWitt, Neb. (North Dakota St.) (Tri-County)
25	Holtmeier, Blake	WR	6-2	200	RFr.	Kearney, Neb. (Kearney Catholic)	74	Barnett, Jalin	OL	6-4	310	Fr.	Lawton, Okla. (Lawton)
26	Connely, Thomas	LB	5-11	205	RFr.	Kearney, Neb. (Kearney Catholic)	75	Anderson, Fyn	DL	6-3	260	Fr.	Lincoln, Neb. (Southeast)
26	Pelzer, Brady	WR	5-11	180	RFr.	Bellevue, Neb. (Bellevue East)	75	Long, Chris	OL	6-4	300	Sr.	Blair, Neb. (Blair)
26	Sutcliffe, Jamie	PK	6-2	190	Jr.	Thousand Oaks, Calif. (Utah/Pierce College) (Thousand Oaks)	76	Johnson Jr., Dwayne	OL	6-6	280	So.	Houston, Texas (Bellaire)
27	Foltz, Sam	P	6-1	200	Jr.	Grand Island, Neb. (Grand Island)	76	Owen, Dylan	DL	6-5	235	RFr.	Westchester, N.Y. (Bridgton Academy) (Somers)
27	Johnson, Noah	RB	6-0	195	Fr.	Sutton, Neb. (Sutton)	77	Knevel, David	OL	6-9	310	So.	Brantford, Ontario, Canada (Pauline Johnson Collegiate)
27	Williams, Kieron	S	6-0	190	So.	Shreveport, La. (Air Force Prep) (C.E. Byrd)	78	Price, Givens	DT	6-4	310	Sr.	Houston, Texas (Alief Taylor)
28	Cockrell, Byerson	DB	6-0	185	Sr.	Columbus, Miss. (East Mississippi CC) (Columbus)	79	Decker, Michael	OL	6-4	285	Fr.	Omaha, Neb. (North)
28	Taylor, Adam	IB	6-2	210	So.	Katy, Texas (Katy)	82	Moore, Alonzo	WR	6-2	195	Jr.	Winnfield, La. (Winnfield Senior)
29	Graham, Nolan	DB	5-11	200	RFr.	Firth, Neb. (Norris)	84	Cotton, Sam	TE	6-4	250	Jr.	Lincoln, Neb. (Southeast)
29	Nabity, Graham	IB	6-0	210	Jr.	Omaha, Neb. (Elkhorn)	85	Snyder, Matt	TE	6-5	245	Fr.	San Ramon, Calif. (California)
30	Kitrell, Bo	FB	6-1	225	RFr.	Ashland, Neb. (Ashland-Greenwood)	86	Sutton, David	TE	6-3	255	Sr.	Lincoln, Neb (Southeast)
31	Young, Conor	WR	6-1	170	Fr.	Cozad, Neb. (Cozad)	87	Reilly, Brandon	WR	6-1	195	Jr.	Lincoln, Neb. (Southwest)
32	Cross, Imani	IB	6-1	240	Sr.	Gainesville, Ga. (North Hall)	88	Dzuris, Ross	DE	6-3	250	Jr.	Plattsmouth, Neb. (Plattsmouth)
32	Davis, Alex	DE	6-5	230	Fr.	Riviera Beach, Fla. (Dwyer)	88	Hoppes, Tyler	TE	6-4	240	So.	Lincoln, Neb. (Wayne State) (Southwest)
33	Bailey, Christian	WR	5-11	205	So.	San Clemente, Calif. (San Clemente)	89	Ketter, Connor	TE	6-5	245	So.	Norfolk, Neb. (Norfolk Catholic)
33	McKay, Garrett	LB	6-0	210	Jr.	Anaheim Hills, Calif. (Santa Ana College) (Servite)	90	McMullen, Greg	DE	6-3	280	Jr.	Akron, Ohio (Hoban)
34	Brown, Drew	PK	5-11	180	So.	Southlake, Texas (Southlake Carroll)	91	Akinmoladun, Freedom	DE	6-4	255	RFr.	Grandview, Mo. (Grandview)
34	Newby, Terrell	IB	5-10	200	Jr.	Los Angeles, Calif. (Chaminade)	92	Urbach, Chase	LS	6-3	200	Fr.	Grosse Pointe, Mich. (Grosse Pointe South)
35	Janovich, Andy	FB	6-1	230	Sr.	Gretna, Neb. (Gretna)	92	Williams, Kevin	DT	6-2	275	Sr.	Holland, Ohio (Springfield)
36	Karel, Reid	ATH	6-3	190	Fr.	Seward, Neb. (Seward)	94	Davis, Khalil	DL	6-2	265	Fr.	Blue Springs, Mo. (Blue Springs)
37	Lazaro, Noah	LB	6-2	225	Fr.	Lincoln, Neb. (Lincoln Southwest)	95	Gangwish, Jack	DE	6-2	265	Sr.	Wood River, Neb. (Wood River)
37	Mazour, Wyatt	RB	5-9	190	Fr.	Albion, Neb. (Boone Central)	95	Lindsay, Spencer	PK	5-9	205	Jr.	Kearney, Neb. (Kearney)
38	Jordan, Harrison	FB	5-10	230	So.	Omaha, Neb. (Westside)	96	Davis, Carlos	DL	6-2	265	Fr.	Blue Springs, Mo. (Blue Springs)
39	Nelson, Jordan	IB	5-7	180	Jr.	Omaha, Neb. (Burke)	97	Rath, Logan	DT	6-4	280	Jr.	Giltner, Neb. (South Dakota St.) (Giltner)
40	Betka, Ty	WR	5-7	165	Jr.	Superior, Neb. (Drake)	98	Valentine, Vincent	DT	6-3	320	Jr.	Edwardsville, Ill. (Edwardsville)
40	Ober, Jordan	LS	6-1	200	Fr.	Las Vegas, Nev. (Bishop Gorman)	99	Newell, Peyton	DL	6-3	270	RFr.	Hiawatha, Kan. (Hiawatha)



RECRUITING NOTEBOOK

BY MICHAEL SCHAEFER
RECRUITING EDITOR
HUSKERSILLUSTRATED.COM

NU already has 15 for Class of 2016

The first full recruiting class in the Mike Riley era started slow but then picked up steam quickly for the Nebraska staff. The Huskers only had a handful of commitment holdovers from the Pelini era, but then things started to get underway.

Nebraska sits at 15 commitments right now and are working toward building for official visit season and already have quite a few visitors lined up for the first few weeks of the non-conference schedule.

Here's a few of the things that have happened over the summer for the Huskers:

Satellite camps - The Huskers hosted a number of satellite camps over a week-long stretch in June, making stops in Atlanta, Miami, Dallas and Los Angeles. By all accounts the camps were a huge success because it allowed the staff to get the Nebraska brand out and more importantly allowed recruits who couldn't afford a trip to Lincoln the opportunity to camp with and work with the coaching staff.

Dicaprio Bootle became the first direct commitment to arise out of a satellite camp, as

the defensive back from South Beach worked with Brian Stewart and then earned an offer. Bootle might be a little undersized but few players possess his speed. The defender committed to Nebraska in July on an unofficial visit to campus.

Elsewhere the Huskers earned a lot of attention for their Los Angeles camp, which had commitments Patrick O'Brien and Marquel Dismuke in attendance, as well as giving the staff a chance to work with a number of 2017 recruiting targets, including recently offered four-star quarterback Triston Gebbia.

Big Red Weekend - Even though Big Red Weekend was spearheaded by the previous staff, Nebraska's new staff kept the event together and hosted two big visit weekends, anchored around a Friday Night Lights camp. The Huskers brought in some very talented players at these events including several who would go on to commit.

During the first weekend Nebraska hosted Greg Simmons, a linebacker from Miami and the three-star defender was so blown away

by what he saw in Lincoln he chose to decommit from Miami shortly upon returning home. Simmons would later commit to the Huskers at the end of July, citing his love of the coaching staff and a preference to get out of the South Beach area and experience something else.

Also that first weekend Nebraska entertained offensive lineman Boe Wilson from suburban Kansas City. The lineman enjoyed his time with offensive line coach Mike Cavanaugh and later committed to the Huskers in July.

The following Big Red Weekend featured a pair of visitors who would also commit in July. The Huskers hosted linebacker Quayshon Alexander and the New Jersey product loved his Husker experience. He called the trip eye-opening and he used his time in Lincoln to help sell his mother on the Huskers as well. Alexander is a four-star product and one of the team's top commitments in the class.

Colorado tight end Jack Stoll visited the same weekend and also committed to the Huskers, choosing Nebraska over Texas because of the

strong family atmosphere and the good relationship he had developed with the Nebraska coaches.

New in-state star - One of the other big story lines of the news heavy summer was Nebraska's discovery of 2018 tight end Cameron Jurgens. The Beatrice product checks in at 6-foot-3, 225 pounds and he absolutely dominated during his time at the Friday Night Lights camps.

The Huskers immediately offered after Jurgens' strong performance and the Beatrice star committed on the first day of Nebraska's fall camp when he visited practice with his family.

Jurgens said the choice was an easy one for someone who had always dreamed of playing for the Huskers.

"I thought it was the perfect day," he said at the time of his commitment. "I knew I wanted to commit and my family was up here with me, so I got to tell the coaches in person."

"I don't want to play for anybody else. I'm all about the Huskers." **N**

BY MICHAEL BRUNTZ

STATE OF THE HUSKERS

Turner reinvigorated for fifth season, new opportunity



Read daily Husker reports from Michael Bruntz at HuskersIllustrated.com
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WHEN JAMAL TURNER was faced with the decision about whether to return to Nebraska for a fifth year after tearing his Achilles tendon last season, the senior wide receiver said he didn't have to think long.

"I love Nebraska and I want to go out with a bang," Turner said. "It wasn't a tough decision, I wanted to come back and play."

With that decision made, the big question for Turner was how to make that bang. This spring, Turner's weight topped 200 pounds, as he came back from the season-ending injury, and things didn't get much better as he was nagged by a number of health issues when he returned to the field during the second half of spring ball.

Turner came to a realization that if he was going to come back for a fifth year, and if he wanted to end his career on a high note, he was going to need to get to work.

The 6-foot-1 wide receiver got to work, rededicating himself to training and getting his weight back to a more manageable number. Twenty-five pounds later, the senior says he feels light and quick.

"When I first met coach (Williams), I was 205, by the end of the summer I was 180," Turner said. "I lost 25 pounds. The workouts we were doing with the strength coaches were insane. I really dedicated myself to eating healthy and started feeling better. The injuries I had in my lower body, I told myself it was because I had gotten too big. I never played at that size."

Beyond the physical nature of the game, Turner has also formed a quick bond with Williams, Nebraska's new wide receivers coach Keith Williams. During practices and in interviews, Turner seems to be enjoying the game much more.

Nebraska is hoping that carries over to the field when the season begins.

Nebraska will need Turner to be at his best when the season starts, as the Huskers have had a number of wide receivers miss significant time this fall with injuries. There's also the injury to De'Mornay Pierson-El that will keep the freshman All-American sidelined likely until Big Ten play.

Turner can do many of the things in Nebraska's offense that would have gone to Pierson-El.

"Some of those things will be spread around," Nebraska head coach Mike Riley said. "Jamal can do some of those things like De'Mornay does, and we also, as you see in the future, we will recruit guys who are like that — run the fly sweep, run the reverse, screens, and I think Jamal can do some of those things."

In addition to the offensive roles, Turner also has his sights set on another role previously handled by Pierson-El.

"I'm going for punt returner," Turner said. "When DPE went down, that part of the game, I said, 'OK, I need to step up.' I don't think they know who the guy is but I'm going to keep catching punts everyday."

Nebraska fans last saw what Turner could do in 2012, when he caught 32 passes in 14 games as a sophomore. Since then, he has caught just 17 passes in 10 games while battling multiple injuries.

Though he is now seeing significant reps in practice, Turner said things didn't start well for him in fall camp as he struggled with the transition in offense.

He quickly learned that timing and details would be important if he wanted to end his career on a high note at Nebraska. The senior said he also finally started feeling better physically toward the end of fall camp as well.

"When I first met coach Williams I was 205 (pounds), by the end of the summer I was 180. I lost 25 pounds. The workouts we were doing with the strength coachees was insane. I really dedicated myself to eating healthy and started feeling better."

"I just started studying more," Turner said. "I wasn't all there at first at the beginning of camp. I was feeling sorry for myself, but one day, I said, 'if I really want to do this, I need to do it,' so I started studying more and it got a lot easier for me."

Turner's performances in scrimmages have backed that up. In Nebraska's scrimmage in front of a few thousand students, Turner caught a 60-yard touchdown after a nice double move to get separation from

the defender.

Riley hopes he sees more of that now that the season is set to begin.

"I'm proud of Jamal," Riley said. "Jamal has lasted. He's like the last-man standing out there. He came into camp in great shape, he lost a lot of weight in the summer, he had great intentions, he made a lot of plays and I'm thankful he came back for his year here."

Read daily Husker reports from Michael Bruntz at HuskersIllustrated.com
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2MinuteDrill



ARMSTRONG
KNOWS OFFENSE
IS IN HIS HANDS

Stories by Lanny Holstein and Michael Bruntz

A number of different things make the 2015 Nebraska football season a wild card, but quarterback play may be the most intriguing.

And by quarterback play, we mean Tommy Armstrong's performance. The redshirt junior took over the starting role midway through his freshman season and hasn't looked back. A year ago, he threw for nearly 2,700 yards and 22 touchdowns, but he still has plenty of detractors.

The 12 interceptions and lowly 53 percent completion rate left a lot to be desired a year ago, and without the services of Ameer Abdullah at running back carrying the load, Armstrong will be asked to improve those numbers.

Throughout the summer, he worked to improve himself, according to his coaches.

"I think he's really put a lot of time into workouts and throwing with receivers," offensive coordinator Danny Langsdorf said. "He's spent a ton of time studying, and we've traded a ton of messages. I think he's done a good job investing in some study time. We've had great reports from everybody about him in the weight room too."

The biggest thing Armstrong has focused on since throwing his final pass of last season at the Holiday Bowl in San Diego is being a better quarterback mentally. Understanding coverages and being able to identify which receiver will be open is something he is still striving to get better at in fall camp.

"There's some good, some bad with that," Langsdorf said. "There are times where he's getting a good indicator, but I think he's getting fooled a couple of times on some disguises. Our defense does that well. That's something that coach (Mark) Banker and the defense do a good job of, and it's good for us."

Nebraska's coaches aren't babying Armstrong at all in camp. In fact, they've really gone out of their way to put the heat on he and the rest of the signal callers to see what happens when it's crunch time.

"They kind of told us that it was going to be like that," Armstrong said. "They wanted us to respond the right way, and I don't think we did. We let them down a little bit, I could tell. We let coach Langsdorf down as a quarterback unit."

That's not to say camp has been all bad. Coach Mike Riley praised Armstrong and the rest of the Husker passers on their ability to bounce back from mistakes and improve in the pocket.

"I think they functioned coming out of the spring with pretty good efficiency," he said. "It's

Pierson-El out 6 to 8 weeks with foot injury



MICHAEL BRUNTZ/HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED

Nebraska head coach Mike Riley expects De'Mornay Pierson-El to play a significant role in 2015 despite a foot injury that will force him to miss the start of the season.

"He has been through his deal in the hospital, he's out, we were told everything went well, and now it's all biology," Riley said after Thursday's practice. "Our goal is for him to return and play this year, how soon, I hesitate to say because I don't want to put anything on him...they initially said 6-8 weeks, but it's all biology now. It's one thing being healed, it's another thing being ready to play."

"We really believe he's going to play a good portion of the year."

Riley said Pierson-El hurt the foot in Tuesday's practice making a cut in a drill. The head coach dubbed the injury a Jones Fracture.

"It was a non-contact injury," Riley said.

Pierson-El was the latest injury to befall Nebraska's wide receiver group, though the head coach said things are trending up for that group.

"I would hope that by Monday they are all back, healthy, including (Brandon) Reilly," Riley said. "Then we'll have a pretty good crew of two-deep that I really like. I'm not downplaying De'Mornay's loss. He's a very special athlete in a lot of areas, and a lot of things we can do with him, but we still have people to do that stuff, they'll just have to share it. The important part is to get the right depth set up so we feel really good about the starter and the backup."

without pads, but I think we started things off pretty well."

The last part of the quarterback equation is learning the new offense. While Riley, Langsdorf and crew have been relatively secretive about the exact nature of the scheme, it's obvious that many things will be different this season for the guys under center.

New plays have led to a few mistakes, like an Armstrong interception at a recent practice, but the response to those missteps, like Armstrong giving Michael Rose a forearm shiver, have always been good.

"You always have to get frustrated when you throw picks," Armstrong said. "I wasn't going to just let him run freely. I had to let him know."

Who will replace Ameer Abdullah?

So many running backs, so little time.

That's about how Nebraska running backs coach Reggie Davis feels as the Huskers go through fall camp. There are only so many reps to go around and so many hours of daylight for he and the rest of the offensive staff to get a hold of their situation at running back.

In the wake of Ameer Abdullah's stellar career, the door is open for a back or two to step into the void, but the competition for that role is fierce. Top contenders Terrell Newby and Mikale Wilbon are each former four star recruits as is Adam Taylor who lurks behind them.

"We are going to have to play a little bit by committee," offensive coordinator Danny Langsdorf said. "We have a bunch of guys who all do something well. So we are going to have to fit their strengths to the game plan."

Nebraska is coming off quite the run of stellar running backs, going from Roy Helu to Rex Burkhead to Abdullah. There are lofty expectations for whoever assumes the majority of the carries.

"Coming out of spring, I felt like Terrell Newby had separated himself from the group," Davis said. "I think he is a very good all around back. He uses his abilities well, his speed and his acceleration, his understanding of the offense, he can catch the ball and run the runs that we need him to."

Newby has received the majority of the first team reps in practice, but Wilbon isn't far behind.

"Mikale has had a really good camp," Davis said. "Talking to the strength staff, he did a really good job in the weight room with his strength and conditioning over the summer time. We can see it right now - he's really focused. He's doing a great job in all aspects of the game right now."

Each of the top two backs catch the ball well out of the backfield, according to Davis, and that's something that they value. The screen pass is a frequent sight on the practice field this season and likely will be in games as well.

Behind Newby and Wilbon, true freshman Jordan Stevenson is an intriguing player. Released from his letter of intent in late July, Stevenson is a four star recruit who originally intended to play for Wisconsin before failing to qualify academically.

"I think that (Stevenson) really just kind of jumped right in," coach Mike Riley said. "Looks to me like he made some plays, so we are just going to keep coaching him, let those guys continue to play and grow and not think too much about a depth chart until he gets a chance to play some more. We are obviously very, very pleased that we got him."

Although he doesn't figure into the mix for every down carries, Imani Cross is another part of the running back puzzle. He has one season left in the Scarlet and Cream.

"He works hard at what he's doing," Davis said. "He studies hard, and he really wants to be a great football player. He does a lot of studying on his own of players at both the college and pro level. He's trying to find a role in which he can best help us."



Mikale Wilbon



Terrell Newby

A Starter's State of Mind

Senior DT Kevin Williams makes most of playing time

Story by Lanny Holstein • Photo by Jimmy Rash

SENIOR DEFENSIVE TACKLE

Kevin Williams is a backup. That's not meant to be a shot at the fifth year Husker. He plays a valuable role and is a well respected member of the Nebraska defensive line, but there are only two starting spots at defensive tackle in defensive coordinator Mark Banker's defense, and Maliek Collins and Vincent Valentine have them.

Don't tell that to Williams.

"I'm not a backup," he said after a recent fall practice. "I haven't been a backup since my redshirt freshman year, so I'd appreciate it if you guys wouldn't publish that. I'm not a backup. I've been hurt twice, and that set me back, but I've never been a backup. I don't want that out there anymore."

Williams is clearly fired up for his final go around as a Husker. Having dealt with season ending knee injuries in both 2011 and 2013, he's been through a lot. A season ago he put together his best campaign; 19 tackles, eight for loss, including three sacks, and he feels like he can top that this year.

But Williams takes issue with the label he's been assigned. As the third cog in the defensive tackle rotation, Williams is technically a backup, but that title doesn't belie the impact he can have. It puts a chip on his shoulder.

"Oh, definitely," fellow defensive lineman Greg McMullen said. "He hasn't been out here in some time battling injuries, getting a hernia repaired, so of course he was out here energetic, hyped up. Kevin Williams is one of those guys where nothing can

ever tear him down or hold him back from what he wants to do."

Maybe part of the reason for the extra edge Williams seems to carry before this season comes from competition in camp. Twin tackles Carlos and Khalil Davis are making a push behind Williams, and as true freshman they are the sexy names that have fans all excited.

"We are all out here competing," McMullen said.

"That's the sport that we play, so if anything, we all have a chip on our shoulder because any given day we could take a step back and somebody could pass us."

It's tough to get much further into the mind of Williams because he refused to do any more interviews after scolding the media, but he doesn't seem like the

kind of guy that is happy settling into his current situation. When Valentine missed a few practices with a minor foot injury early in camp, Williams stepped right into the role opposite Collins.

"As a coach, you have to leave that competition open," coach Mike Riley said. "There are some positions that we know who's going to start. We know

Maliek Collins is going to start.

There's things like that, but in general, you'd like to give the guys some vision and hope in the competition as to where they might go. We owe them that."

For Williams the hope is to make the most of 2015. Two major knee injuries and a

number of other bumps along the way certainly wasn't the plan before college, but as McMullen said of him, "Kevin's still here. He's still going."



**WEST****BIG
TEN****EAST****BIGTEN NOTEBOOK**

Fresh off National Title, Buckeyes enter 2015 as consensus No. 1

Michigan State, Wisconsin also appear in pre-season top 25 at No. 5, No. 20 respectively

| DOUG GRIFFITHS

WHAT A DIFFERENCE a year makes is an overused cliche, but so very appropriate as we prepare to kickoff the 2015 Big Ten football season.

At this time last year, the Big Ten was the nation's proverbial punching bag and deservedly so.

One year later, no one is laughing at the Big Ten.

That's because Ohio State made a magical run to the national championship last season.

Now, after the Buckeyes claimed their sixth national title, the pundits are fully on the Scarlet and Gray's bandwagon. They are believing not only could another national championship be on the horizon, but serious talk is ongoing about Urban Meyer having a dynasty in Columbus.

And that's just fine with Meyer.

"We created a monster," said Meyer at Ohio State's media day. "You've got to feed it."

Meyer is certainly feeding the monster, pleasing Buckeye Nation faster than they could've dreamt.

All Meyer, who is 38-3 overall as Buckeye boss, did was win it all in Year Three at Ohio State.

His fourth Buckeye team is the consensus No. 1 team in the land in the Associated Press' preseason poll.

Ohio State is loaded.

So loaded it has three quarterbacks – J.T. Barrett, Cardale Jones and Braxton Miller – that could start for any team in America.

Don't sleep on the Buckeye defense either. End Joey Bosa is ferocious and perhaps the nation's most disruptive defensive force.

But Ohio State isn't the only shining light Big Ten football has to offer.

Remember the conference is coming off a postseason that not only saw the Buckeyes beat Alabama in the Sugar Bowl before

knocking off Oregon in the title game, but also saw the Big Ten claim a second New Year's Six bowl win thanks to Michigan State. Plus, Wisconsin beat Auburn in the Outback Bowl to notch the league's second postseason victory over the SEC in 2015.

Speaking of the Spartans, they open the season fifth in the AP poll.

With all the Big Ten build up, to be honest it's really the big two – Ohio State and Michigan State – and everyone else.

The polls certainly are indicative of that as Wisconsin is the only other Big Ten team that cracks the top 25. The Badgers are ranked No. 20.

Following *Huskers Illustrated* takes a look at what is making news at each of the other conference schools as we prepare for the 2015 football season.

EAST DIVISION**INDIANA**

Perhaps no coach in the Big Ten is feeling more heat than IU's Kevin Wilson.

Wilson has not had one winning seasons in four tries in Bloomington. As a result, he has a 14-34 overall record, including 6-26 in the Big Ten.

Winning on the gridiron has always been tough at a school known predominantly for its hoops teams.

Making Wilson's job even more difficult is the Big Ten alignment that sees the Hoosiers annually facing Penn State, Michigan, Ohio State and Michigan State.

Wilson increased the Hoosiers' win total in each of his first three seasons. However, last year the program took a step back, primarily because starting quarterback Nate Sudfeld suffered a season-ending injury.

With Sudfeld back and UAB transfer Jordan Howard trying to fill the huge void left by All-American running back Tevin Coleman's departure, Wilson hopes 2015 is

EAST DIVISION**2015 Standings**

Team	Overall	Conference
Ohio State	0-0	0-0
Michigan State	0-0	0-0
Maryland	0-0	0-0
Michigan	0-0	0-0
Rutgers	0-0	0-0
Penn State	0-0	0-0
Indiana	0-0	0-0

WEST DIVISION

Team	Overall	Conference
Wisconsin	0-0	0-0
Minnesota*	0-0	0-0
Nebraska*	0-0	0-0
Iowa *	0-0	0-0
Northwestern	0-0	0-0
Illinois	0-0	0-0
Purdue	0-0	0-0

Sept. 3 Games

Michigan @ Utah 7:30 p.m.
TCU @ Minnesota, 8 p.m.

Sept. 4 Games

Michigan State @ Western Michigan, 6 p.m.
Kent State @ Illinois, 8 p.m.

Sept. 5 Games

Illinois State @ Iowa, 11 a.m.
Norfolk State @ Rutgers, 11 a.m.
Richmond @ Maryland, 11 a.m.
Stanford @ Northwestern, 11 a.m.
BYU @ Nebraska, 11:30 a.m.
Penn State @ Temple, 2:30 p.m.
Southern Illinois @ Indiana, 3 p.m.
Wisconsin vs. Alabama, 7 p.m.*

Sept. 6 Game

Purdue @ Marshall, 2 p.m.

Sept. 7 Games

Ohio State @ Virginia Tech, 7 p.m.

*Arlington, Texas

All times CT

WEST



BIG TEN

EAST



the year his Hoosiers are bowl bound.

MARYLAND

Maryland's offensive and defensive lines have both bulked up in hopes of being better prepared for life in the Big Ten as the Terps enter their second year in the conference.

Maryland is switching from a 3-4 to a 4-3 defense.

If the Terps are to be successful on defense, as well as on offense, they must win the battle in the trenches.

Maryland coach Randy Edsall called the Big Ten a "lineman league," and one of the Terps' main goals this season is to control the line of scrimmage.

MICHIGAN

So the Jim Harbaugh era is about to commence in Ann Arbor.

Harbaugh got an A in the off-season with his recruiting success and social media presence, but how many games will his Wolverines' first team win this season?

They could struggle if a solution under center isn't found and if the offensive line doesn't elevate its game after ranking 96th nationally in sacks allowed percentage last year.

Michigan should have a good defense and a solid running game.

MICHIGAN STATE

The Spartans are thinking big ... really big this season.

The Green and White fully believe this year could be magical after an 11-2 season in 2014 that saw MSU finish in a tie at No. 5 in the final AP poll. The season also included a trouncing of rival Michigan for the sixth time in seven years.

After all, last year's two losses came to the two teams that played for the national title.

"We didn't succeed in those two games so we didn't reach our goals, and that's the bottom line," Coach Mark Dantonio said.

Regardless, the Spartans are enjoying perhaps their best stretch ever on the gridiron.

"We try and reach new heights," Dantonio said. "If you look at our basketball

program, I don't think coach (Tom) Izzo has ever been satisfied. I don't think that's the makeup of a coach or the program, or any real program, any championship-type program or program that's won a lot."

OHIO STATE

The big question in Columbus is can the Buckeyes live up to all their advanced billing.

There's no doubt they have all the pieces, but so, too, have many other defending national champions only to not repeat.

An even bigger question in fall camp has been who will start for OSU at quarterback.

Meyer still hasn't settled on a starter. If he has, he hasn't said who it is.

The competition is between Barrett and Jones.

"They're both doing good," Meyer said. "They're neck and neck."

Miller, a three-year starter at quarterback and two-time Big Ten Player of the Year who suffered a season-ending shoulder injury before last season began, will switch from quarterback to the H-back/wide receiver position.

PENN STATE

Quarterback Christian Hackenberg is looking for a bounce-back season.

In 2014, the talented signal caller threw 12 touchdowns and was picked off 15 times with just a 55.8 percent completion rate.

Even with a sub-par season, many believe Hackenberg will be a high NFL draft pick.

"I see a guy who could be everything – I see a guy who could be the No. 1 pick in the draft," Fox and NFL Network analyst Charles Davis said.

Hackenberg enters his final season in Happy Valley as a team captain.

Penn State coach James Franklin expects big things from his man under center.

"If we give the guy time, he will pick them apart," Franklin said.

RUTGERS

The Scarlet Knights are going with redshirt sophomore Hayden Rettig to start

at quarterback. Rettig and Chris Laviano were battling for the starting job.

However, Laviano is one of five players who are suspended for the first half of the season opener due to a curfew violation. Rettig is a transfer from LSU.

WEST DIVISION

ILLINOIS

For the second-straight year, Coach Tim Beckman is on the proverbial hot seat.

He did get the Illini to a bowl game last year, but the off-season was unkind.

Former player Simon Cvijanovic accused Beckman of forcing him to play through injuries and other forms of "abuse and misuse of power."

Finding how the Illini win six games this season like they did last year might be a reach when you consider they have to play divisional crossover games against Ohio State and Penn State.

IOWA

Word at Iowa football media day was that the Hawkeyes are committed to being a Big Ten championship-caliber team.

"That has been our goal since 1999 when we got started, and things haven't changed," Iowa coach Kirk Ferentz said. "I believe we have a strong foundation in place right now."

For the first time in three seasons, the Hawkeyes have a clear cut starting quarterback in junior C.J. Boatyard.

"The fans deserve a good football team," Ferentz said. "That has always been the goal. I, our staff, and players understand that. We're working hard to provide them what they deserve."

MINNESOTA

Don't sleep on the Golden Gophers this season.

Just ask Harbaugh.

"My dad has always said that Jerry Kill is one of the best coaches that he's ever coached against," the first-year Michigan head coach said.

Kill is in his fifth season in Minneapolis and his Minnesota team seems to be everyone's sleeper pick in the West, especially since Nebraska and Wisconsin are under

WEST



BIG TEN

EAST



new leadership.

Last season the Gophers reached their first January bowl game since 1962.

Minnesota might be even better this year.

It has a shut down secondary and expects to be more creative on offense after practicing a more up-tempo and no-huddle approach in the spring.

With that said, a brutal schedule could be the Gophers' undoing as could a suspect passing attack.

NEBRASKA

New Nebraska offensive line coach Mike Cavanaugh has his work cut out for him.

The former Oregon State staffer, brought over with head man Mike Riley, might have the most difficult task of any Husker assistant. He's tasked with bettering an offensive line that was arguably the most frustrating unit on the team a year ago and replacing starters Jake Cotton, Mark Pelini and Mike Moudy.

The first thing Cavanaugh did when he took over was institute a focus on technique. It's something that he believes will take his players, regardless of age or skill, to the next level.

"We just have to keep working," he said. "I like our physicality. I like our effort. I think our technique's improving, and we have to continue to improve there. The two separators to me are going to be our toughness and our technique. We have to keep grinding."

Competition is open across much of the line. With three starters gone and consistency issues hanging around those who played extensively a year ago, Cavanaugh anoint anyone yet.

"We've rotated a bunch of guys through, and we have good battles at right tackle and at the guard and center positions, so we are rolling a lot of guys," he said. "We need to settle on a starting five and a backup five. That will come in the next week or two."

It's pretty basic how those groups will be determined.

"I just told them today that nobody is entitled to anything," Cavanaugh said. "We are going to find out who the five guys are, the five toughest, the five smartest, and that's how it's going to start out."

Although nothing is guaranteed, Alex

Lewis and Chongo Kondolo appear to be ahead of the pack at left tackle and right guard. Lewis earned his role with a strong spring, according to coach Mike Riley, and Kondolo separated himself with a tenacious work ethic.

"When he gets his hands on you, and he snatches you and locks you up it's over," Cavanaugh said of Kondolo. "He's done it a couple times with Maliek (Collins), but not a lot. There's been some great battles between those two, and that's the way it has to be."

Overall, strength (both physical and mental) was another issue Cavanaugh addressed when he took over. Working with conditioning coach Mark Phillip, he laid out a plan to have his guys in better shape come game time.

"I thought we really needed to get stronger coming out of spring practice, and I think we have," he said. "I think they really worked hard to develop that mental toughness. They just continue to develop that part of it too."

The battle wages on in camp for the top five spots, something that will mean a bit more under Cavanaugh than it did under former line coach John Garrison. Cavanaugh said he wants to stick with the top five guys for longer, using less rotation.

"It's great chemistry when you get those five guys, and they are working together every day," he said. "We have in the past, now this is the past, but if there were two guys who were definitely equal they both played. But I'm not going to just throw anybody in there just to do it. They have to earn it."

NORTHWESTERN

Three players have been vying to replace Trevor Siemian as the Wildcats' starting quarterback, but still no determination has been made as to who will start against Stanford in the season opener.

Zack Oliver, Matt Alviti and Clayton Thorson are all battling it out.

One of the aforementioned will try to return the 'Cats to their glory days of 2012 when the program won 10 games.

Since then NU has endured back-to-back 5-7 seasons.

PURDUE

The Boilermakers have decided that

Austin Appleby will be their starting quarterback this season.

With Appleby, Purdue gets an experienced player under center. He started the final seven games of the 2014 season, but only won one game.

"He did a good job of taking care of the ball throughout fall camp," Purdue coach Darrell Hazell said. "That's what we asked him to do. He made enough of those makable plays that we asked him to do. That's why we're going with Austin."

This will be an important season for not only Appleby, but for Hazell. Many believe Hazell's third Boilermaker squad must show improvement this fall.

After going 1-11 overall, 0-8 in the Big Ten in 2013, Purdue was 3-9, 1-7 last season.

WISCONSIN

Paul Chryst inherits a contending program, but to contend it must have junior Corey Clement deliver.

Of course, Clement is trying to be the next in the long line of great Badger running backs.

Since 2009, Wisconsin has had a back rush for at least 1,500 yards every season except 2010 when it had a pair (John Clay and James White) rush for more than 1,000 yards and a third (Montee Ball) finish with 996.

The last time the Badgers didn't produce a 1,000-yard rusher was 2004.

There's no doubt Wisconsin's offense will center around Clement, but the burden may not be so heavily on his shoulders as it may have been under previous regimes. Chryst knows to take the program to the next level, he must drastically improve a pretty anemic passing attack.

To elevate that passing game quarterback Joel Stave must improve.

Last year he and Tanner McEvoy combined for 15 touchdown passes and 16 interceptions. Stave completed just 53.4 percent of his passes.

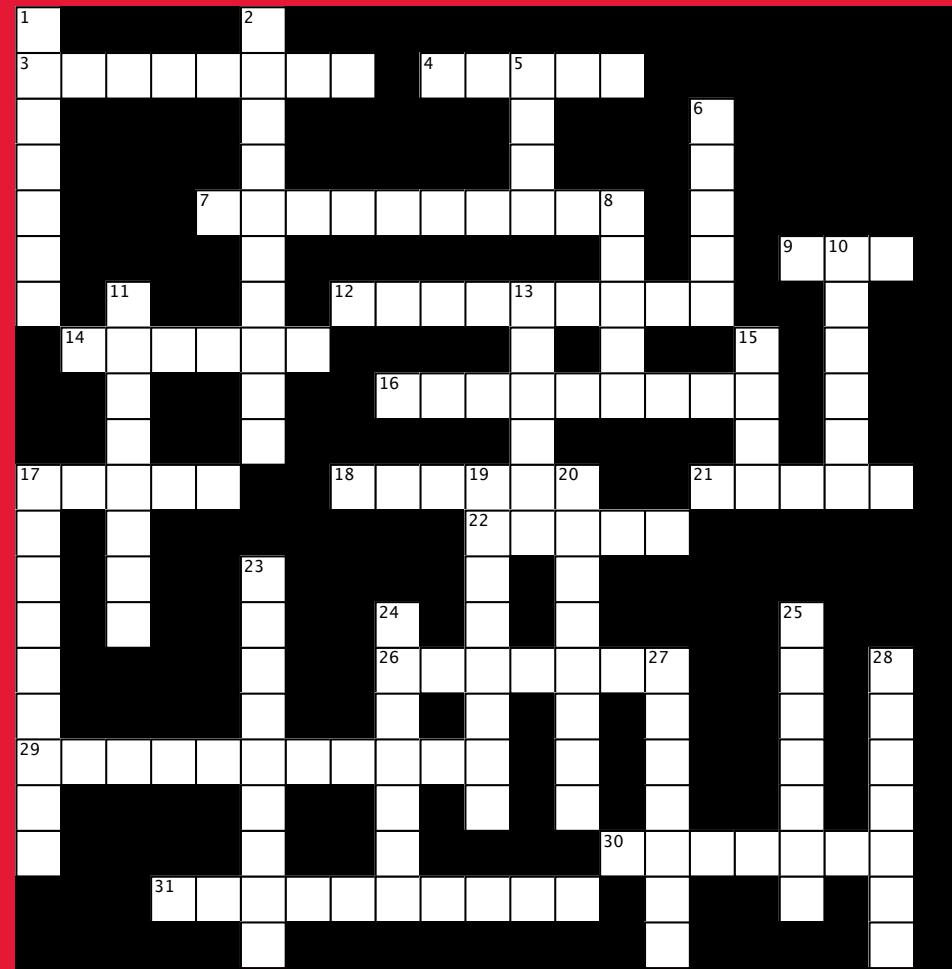
McEvoy is now a wide receiver/safety and Stave is the starting QB.

We will see how well Stave adjusts to the new pro-style of offense.

HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

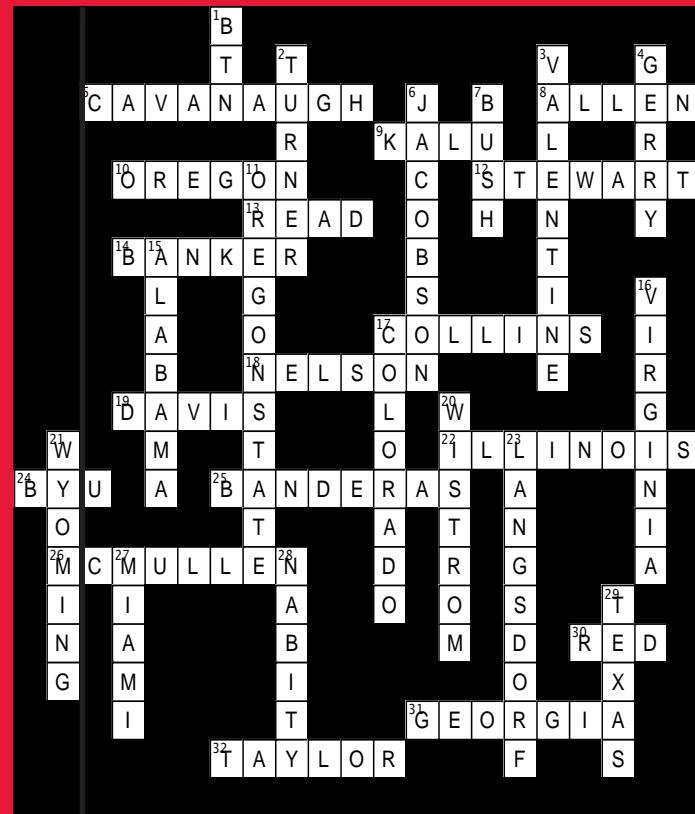
3. Ndamukong Suh's new team
4. Offensive lineman who moved to defensive tackle in fall camp
7. Wears No. 1 (offense)
9. Network for NU-BYU telecast
12. Named to Manning Award Watch List
14. 1997 Outland Trophy winner
16. Receiver sidelined by foot injury
17. Offensive lineman named captain for 2015
18. BYU's Heisman Trophy winner (1990)
21. Named to 2015 Lott Trophy Watch List
22. Has rushed for 22 touchdowns entering senior season
26. Named to Big Ten Preseason Players to Watch List
29. Mike Riley's former school
30. Mike Riley's alma mater
31. BYU head coach



SEPTEMBER 5 PUZZLE

DOWN

1. Ex-BYU coach in College Football Hall of Fame
2. 2015 NFL Hall of Fame inductee
5. Nov. 27 opponent
6. Ex-BYU quarterback, later Super Bowl MVP
11. Defensive end named captain for 2015
13. Wide receiver who received medical hardship in 2014
15. BYU school color
17. Offensive coordinator
19. Wears No. 90 (defense)
20. Wears No. 15 (defense)
23. Wears No. 98 (defense)
24. Ex-BYU quarterback and Super Bowl winner
25. Bowl game after 2014 season
27. 2015 NFL Hall of Fame inductee
28. BYU nickname



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Cornhuskers Go To War recounts 1940 football team

Two things have always been true of Nebraska folk: we love our country, and we love our football. Not necessarily always in that order.

It's true now, and it was true in the fall of 1940, when Major Biff Jones' Cornhuskers ate up the Big Six gridiron on their way to a finish at #7 in the national polls and a berth in the program's first-ever bowl game.

And not just any bowl game, either: this was the Rose Bowl, the proverbial Granddaddy.

Forty-nine young men made the team roster that season, players who hailed primarily from the Cornhusker state and who had wanted nothing more all their lives than to shine on the field for Big Red.

And shine they did. Nebraska's hard-hitting first team and fleet second platoon pushed #2 Stanford's vaunted T formation offense and stingy defense to a near upset. The hometown heroes left their hearts and souls on the field that day, and a faithful Husker Nation welcomed them back to Lincoln with open arms.

In fact, the state's pride in their Rose Bowl team was such that Bob Devaney – when he arrived to take the helm at Nebraska two decades later – would joke that he had always thought that the Cornhuskers had won the contest.

It was a singular group of men, that '41 Rose Bowl team . . . and they were about to be caught up in the global

events that were overtaking the world.

Before the end of World War II, nearly every member of the 1940 Husker football team had traded Husker red for OD green or Navy blue. All served proudly.

Some would train up enthusiastically, do their duty honorably, and then return to lead out the rest of their natural lives as Nebraska farmers or teachers or lawyers or storekeepers. Some, though, would take their place proudly among their brethren and have their lives cut short on battlefields far from their beloved Nebraska plains.

Cornhuskers Go To War takes a journey across the muddy fields and down the Main Streets and across the goal lines with men like Lincoln's Hermie "the German" Rohrig and Ord's Allen Zikmund and Cambridge's Walter "the Butcher" Luther and Grand Island's King Kong Royal Kahler.

We get to walk in their shoes for a country mile and more, exulting in their triumphs, laughing along with their foibles, and—perhaps most importantly—gaining a sense of what can cause a generation of Americans to willingly lay down their slide rules and pitchforks to pick up rucksacks and M1s.

Cornhuskers Go To War is available at Amazon and at www.cornhuskersgotowar.com, as well as in the fine stores in your neighborhood.

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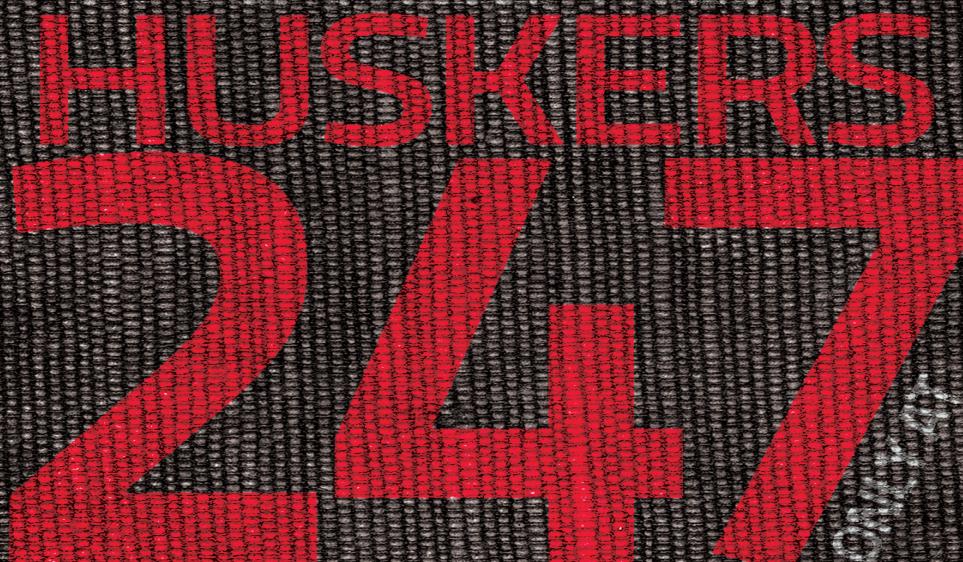
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